

For Intermediate Grades

Materials Needed:

- **Costumes and props** (*optional*)
- **Bibles** (*one for every young person, if possible*)
- **Supplies for making candles** (*simple examples and directions are easily found on the internet, such as rolled beeswax candles, crayon candles, or cracked ice candles*)

Faith Connection

Before Telling the Story

1. Ask the young people if they've ever found or seen something and wondered, "How did that get there?" Encourage them to share their experiences. Be sure to share an example of your own.
2. Invite the young people to listen for two things that got to the island without anyone knowing how they did so. (*"How did that get there?"*)

Telling the Story

Tell in your own words the stories of Our Lady of the Candles, as is appropriate for the age of the young people you are teaching. The story of Our Lady of the Candles would be an excellent story to dramatize, with costumes and props as suggested by the text.

After Telling the Story

1. Invite volunteers to name their favorite parts of the story of Our Lady of the Candles.
2. Invite volunteers to name the two things that got to the island without anyone knowing how they did so. (*The statue and the candles*)
3. Ask the young people who they think were the beings of light. (*Welcome all suggestions.*)

Exploring Our Catholic Faith

1. Explain that many think the beings of light in the story were angels of God.
2. Invite the young people to share what they know about angels. (*Welcome all responses.*)
3. Remind the young people that God gives every person a guardian angel. Guardian angels protect us and guide us. Read together Psalm 91. Ask a volunteer to reread verses 9-13. Invite the young people to describe in their own words what these verses say about angels as our protectors. Recall that the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Guardian Angels on October 2.
4. Explain that in the Bible, angels also deliver God's message to people. Read together Luke 1:26-38. Invite the young people to describe in their own words the message of the angel Gabriel to Mary.

5. Remind the young people that the Church celebrates the Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels, on September 29. Share the meanings of their names: Michael (*Who is like God?*), Gabriel (*God's Strength*), and Raphael (*God's Remedy*). Their roles are protector (*Michael*), messenger (*Gabriel*), and healer (*Raphael*).

Curriculum Connection: Art

After Telling the Story

Invite the young people to create candles in the manner in which you have chosen.

And Furthermore . . .

Invite the young people to take home a copy of the story of Our Lady of the Candles and the candles they have created. Encourage them to put their candles on their family prayer tables or kitchen tables, perhaps with a statue or image of Our Lady they may already have at home. Suggest that they invite their families to gather at the prayer table or kitchen table to hear the story of Our Lady of the Candles and to pray for all who need her light to shine on them today.