

# I. WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT OUR BLESSED LADY

*BEFORE WE VENERATE OUR BLESSED LADY, WE MUST FIRST KNOW HER. WHO IS MARY?*

## MARY OUR MOTHER

**Foretold in the Old Testament.** Genesis 3:15, sometimes called the “First Gospel,” acknowledges the sin of Adam and Eve and declares the future coming of the Redeemer Who will be born of Mary. Isaiah 7:14 predicts that a virgin will conceive and, while remaining a virgin, bring forth Emmanuel—“God-with-us.” Several women mentioned in the Old Testament—Eve, Hannah, Deborah, Ruth, Judith and Esther—especially prepared the way for Our Lady and her mission.

**Chosen by God.** The Lord Himself selected Mary of Nazareth to become His Mother. Both Blessed Pius IX (1846-1878) and Venerable Pius XII (1939-1958) wrote that the Almighty, in one and the same act from all eternity, “predestined” the Son of God to become man, and Our Lady to be His Mother.

**Mother of God.** During the Church’s Third General Council held in 431 at Ephesus with the help of Saint Cyril of Alexandria (370-444), the Church solemnly declared Mary to be the Theotokos (“Mother of God”). The Second Person (Jesus Christ) of the Most Blessed Trinity became man when He was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the Handmaiden’s virginal womb. Jesus Christ is one Divine Person Who possesses two natures—one divine and one human. In His Divine Person and nature, He already existed before His conception in Our Lady’s womb. What Mary did at the moment of the Incarnation was to supply Him with human flesh. This dogma is the Divine Maternity (Divine Motherhood).

**New Eve.** Adam and Eve lost the divine inheritance of sanctifying grace by their sin. Mary received the long-expected inheritance—Jesus Christ, the New Adam—by her acceptance of God’s wise plan for her life. Saint Irenaeus (c. 130-c. 200), affirmed: “The knot of Eve’s disobedience was untied by Mary’s obedience.

What the virgin Eve bound through her unbelief, Our Lady loosed by her faith.” Saint Jerome (c. 342-420) exclaimed: “Death through Eve. Life through Mary.” Our Blessed Mother is the “New Eve.”

**Mother of Men.** When we received the Sacrament of Baptism, we became unique children of God and members of His Church. Our mother in the “order of nature” is the woman who conceived us with the assistance of our father and bore us. Our mother in the “order of grace” is Our Lady because she has communicated to us the grace which makes us holy sons and daughters of God the Father, brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ the Son of the Father, temples of the Holy Spirit, and sons and daughters of Mary. Our Lady’s Spiritual Maternity means that she is our Spiritual Mother.

**Mother of the Church.** The Servant of God, Paul VI (1963-1978), on November 21, 1964, proclaimed Our Lady to be the Mother of the Church. Jesus is the Head of His Mystical Body, of which we are the members united to Mary, His Mother and ours. She is the Mother of the Church and a member of the Church. The Ever-Virgin assists the Faithful with her fervent prayers.



## MARY OUR QUEEN

**Queen of the Angels.** How can Our Lady be honored as the Queen of the Angels—those spirits without bodies which were created by God? She did not bring forth the angels from her womb as she did Jesus Christ; however, Mary’s connection to Christ means that the Angels are obedient and loyal to her.

**Intimate Participant on Calvary with Christ in His Sacrifice, and the Mediatrix of All Graces.**

As the Mother of the Redeemer, Mary cooperated with Jesus as He sacrificed Himself to His Beloved Father for us! Our Lady lovingly consented to her Son’s Death. The Church honors Mary as the Co-Redemptrix because she took part with Jesus in our Redemption, and the Mediatrix of All Graces because it is through her, now in Heaven, that grace comes to us.

**Woman Clothed with the Sun.** Mary is often viewed as the woman mentioned in Chapter 12 of the Book of Revelation (Apocalypse). She is the model of the Church: virginity (keeping the Faith intact from error), and maternity (while simultaneously bringing forth new members through the preaching of God’s Holy Word and the administration of the Seven Sacraments). Our Lady is the icon—“the sacred image”—of what the Church will be in Heaven.

**Assumed into Heaven and Crowned.** On November 1, 1950, Venerable Pius XII defined that the Blessed Virgin Mary, upon the completion of her earthly existence, was assumed body and soul by the Almighty into Paradise. Now, she already shares—soul and body—in the glory of her Son’s Resurrection. Crowned as Queen of Heaven and earth, Our Lady prays for us near her Divine Son. Both Jesus Christ and His Mother await our entrance into celestial glory.

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# MARY OUR EXAMPLE

**Sinless Disciple of the Lord.** The dogma of the Immaculate Conception maintains that Mary never contracted Original Sin. Furthermore, she never committed any “actual” sins, whether mortal or venial. Yet, she remained free to choose between good and evil. That Our Lady was full of grace means that she obediently heeded and pursued His every command.

**Perpetual Virgin.** The Church has taught for centuries that Mary was a virgin before, during and after the Birth of the Savior. Both Sacred Scripture (Isaiah 7:14) and the Apostolic Tradition express this unchangeable truth. The title “Ever-Virgin” is used in The Roman Canon of the Holy Mass. Our Lady is the only woman venerated as both “Virgin” and “Mother.”

**Wife of Saint Joseph.** Mary and Joseph were really married in the sight of God. They freely renounced the exercise of this right to the marital embrace. Jesus Christ was miraculously conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and miraculously born of Our Lady, who retained her virginity in the process of giving birth to her Son.

**Daughter of the Father and Temple of the Holy Spirit.** As the Mother of the Redeemer, Mary is the Mother of Jesus Christ, the Second Person of

the Most Blessed Trinity. She is the Favorite Daughter of the Father Who created her from nothing and the Temple of the Holy Spirit Who sanctified her by filling her with His life.

**Heart Pure and Immaculate.** In her Heart, Our Lady sought after and served God. She has a pure and sinless Heart because she was preserved from Original Sin and avoided actual sin in all its forms. The Immaculate Heart of Mary is explicitly referred to twice in the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke (2:19; 2:51).

**Pattern and Exemplar.** Mary, the Daughter of Sion who waited with all the poor and lowly children of the Lord in anticipation of the Messiah, was full of faith, hope, obedience and charity. She is our fellow companion on the pilgrimage to the Father’s House in Heaven. Our Lady is the Morning Star who unfailingly points to the Son of Justice, Christ her Son.

**Unifier Among Christians.** Jesus Christ prayed during the Last Supper on the first Holy Thursday evening “that all may be one” (Saint John 17:21). Mary’s proximity to Our Lord is unparalleled. It is impossible to understand the Sacred Humanity of Jesus without appreciating His Mother. Authentic comprehension of Our Lady will eventually result in Christian unity.



Thanks to our parents, siblings, relatives, friends, priests and teachers, we know how to pray the Most Holy Rosary. We hope that we comprehend its timeless value.

First, the Most Holy Rosary is an opportunity to adore the Most Blessed Trinity, thereby drawing closer to God and making progress along the challenging path to Paradise. Almost two thousand years ago, Jesus invited His Apostles to pray. Above all, praying is the offering of fitting worship and praise to our Creator. Had the Lord never demonstrated His amazing love and abiding compassion for us after the Fall of Adam and Eve,

it still would be right—and absolutely necessary—for us to pray as an expression of laud for our Maker.

The Most Holy Rosary helps us to adore: our Beloved Father in Heaven Who constantly extends His unfathomable mercy towards us; our Savior and Brother Jesus Christ Who lives in Sacred Scripture and the Church’s Apostolic Tradition—and is present in a most unique way, as the Prayer after the Divine Praises during Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament puts it, “in every Tabernacle throughout the world, even until the end of time”: our Counselor, the Holy Spirit, Who inspires us to embrace good fully and avoid evil.

Second, the Most Holy Rosary is an opportunity to answer the urgent summons of Our Lady of Fatima. Six times during 1917, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary appeared to Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco in Fatima, Portugal, encouraging them to pray the Most Holy Rosary daily for “the end of the War” (World War I). Although that War has concluded, there are plenty of others that seek our attention and elicit our earnest prayers. And, of course, our prayer list filled with diverse needs never ends. Our Blessed Mother uses our humble prayers to work much benefit throughout the universe. The Mother of God knows better than any other human person that prayer is indispensable.

The Most Holy Rosary helps us to reply affirmatively to Mary’s request to pray her Most Holy

Rosary for all the intentions lodged deep in the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Pure Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Third, the Most Holy Rosary is an opportunity to unite ourselves to all the holy men and women, boys and girls who are reciting (and who have recited) this prayer that Blessed John Paul II hailed as his “favorite.” Imagine the Poor Souls in Purgatory (“The Church Suffering”) who prayed the Most Holy Rosary. Now they look to us to assist them in their plight as they continue onward to the Everlasting Kingdom. Imagine the Saints in Heaven (“The Church Triumphant”) who recited the Most Holy Rosary. With the abundant grace of God, they have achieved their goal of perfect union with Jesus Christ in Paradise. Now they attentively await our arrival. Imagine the Faithful here on earth (“The Church Militant”) who presently pray the Most Holy Rosary. They are convinced of the intercessory power of Our Blessed Lady and recognize her God-given ability to change hearts and minds.

The Most Holy Rosary helps us to remember always our strong solidarity especially with all the Christians in Heaven, Purgatory and on earth who had and have recourse to the Madonna through the recitation of her Most Holy Rosary. All told, the Most Holy Rosary is an inestimable treasure that we, through no merit of our own, are delighted to possess. May we understand it better and pray it more!

## II. WHY SHOULD WE PRAY HER MOST HOLY ROSARY?



## III. WORDS OF WISDOM

“The Rosary is the most beautiful and the most rich in graces of all prayers; it is the prayer that touches most the Heart of the Mother of God...and if you wish peace to reign in your homes, recite the family Rosary.”

— *Pope Saint Pius X (+1914)*

“The holy Rosary is a powerful weapon. Use it with confidence and you’ll be amazed at the results.”

— *Saint Josemaria Escrivá (+1975)*

“The Most Holy Virgin in these last times in which we live has given a new efficacy to the recitation of the Rosary to such an extent that there is no problem, no matter how difficult it is, whether temporal or above all spiritual, in the personal life of each one of us, of our families...that cannot be solved by the Rosary. There is no problem, I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot resolve by the prayer of the Holy Rosary.”

— *The Servant of God Lucia of Fatima (+2005)*

“I look to all of you, brothers and sisters of every state of life, to you, Christian families, to you, the sick and elderly, and to you, young people: confidently take up the Rosary once again. Rediscover the Rosary in the light of Scripture, in harmony with the Liturgy, and in the context of your daily lives.”

— *Blessed John Paul II (+2005)*

## IV. FOR WHAT DO WE PRAY?

On October 1, 2011, which was the First Saturday and the Memorial of Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face, the Most Reverend Paul J. Swain, D.D., the Bishop of Sioux Falls, consecrated the Diocese of Sioux Falls to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Basing his Act of Consecration on that used by Blessed John Paul II on Sunday, March 25, 1984, Bishop Swain and the Pastors in the Diocese of Sioux Falls who made the Act of Consecration with him prayed for certain pressing needs, especially protection from sin.

Immaculate Heart, help us to conquer the menace of evil, which so easily takes root in the hearts of the people, and whose immeasurable effects already weigh down upon the world:

From sins against human life—abortion and euthanasia, *deliver us.*

From contraception and sins against marriage and chastity, *deliver us.*

From famine and war, *deliver us.*

From every kind of injustice in society, both national and international, *deliver us.*

From violations of the Commandments of God and the Precepts of the Church, *deliver us.*

From all kinds of dishonesty and addiction, *deliver us.*

From sins against the Holy Spirit, *deliver us.*

We pray the Most Holy Rosary because we love the Hearts of Jesus and Mary and want to spend eternity in Heaven. Now, let us commend daily all our intentions to Our Mother and Queen through our recitation of her Most Holy Rosary.

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### Office of the Marian Apostolate

MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

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The Legion of Mary  
and  
The Knights of Columbus  
Marquette Council #815



# WHY PRAY THE MOST HOLY ROSARY?



“CONTINUE ALWAYS TO PRAY THE ROSARY EVERY DAY.”

— *Our Lady of the Rosary to Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta on October 13, 1917*

J.M.J.



If you pray the Most Holy Rosary daily, then please continue. If, however, you do not, then please consider starting. That decision will rank as one of the best that you will ever make. You will never regret it.