



Confirmation Class Worksheet

1/24: Mary and the Saints

MAIN POINTS

Christians acknowledge that Jesus was “born of the Virgin Mary,” but for many, Mary is little more than a statue in a nativity scene. Not for Catholics. For Catholics, Mary is the Mother of God, the Queen of Heaven, and the first and most perfect disciple of the Lord. This week we are going to learn just who Mary of Nazareth is, and why loving Mary brings us closer to her son, Jesus.

OPEN IN PRAYER:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

PLAY VIDEO SEGMENT #1

QUESTIONS

1. Dr. Sri points us to the Old Testament understanding of the Queen Mother. With the ancient understanding of the Queen Mother, what does Mary inherit as the Mother of Jesus?
2. Some people have accused Catholics of worshipping Mary while others have accused the Catholic Church of treating women as “second class.” How does the Catholic practice of venerating Mary disprove both of these viewpoints?

PLAY VIDEO SEGMENT #2

QUESTIONS

1. Let’s look at the Marian dogmas. First, we see that Mary is the Theotokos, meaning the “God-bearer.” She can be called Mother of God because Jesus was fully God and fully man—therefore, Mary carried God within Her womb. Why do you think the Church considers Mary to be the new Ark of the Covenant?
2. How would you respond to someone who says: “Mary cannot be without sin because the Bible says ‘all have sinned’ ” [Romans 3:23].
3. If Jesus came to save us from our sin and Mary is without sin, how does Jesus save Mary?

PLAY VIDEO SEGMENT #3

QUESTIONS

1. Dr. Sri says it is fitting that Mary would be first to be assumed into heaven, body and soul, after Christ's resurrection. What did Dr. Sri mean by this?
2. The Hail Mary is one of the most recited and common prayers in the Catholic Church. Much of the Hail Mary is right from Scripture. When we say, "Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you," we are repeating the words of God Himself. We know this, because these were the words of St. Gabriel, who is a messenger of God. When we say, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb," we are repeating the prophesy of St. Elizabeth, who knew, through the Holy Spirit, her Lord was in the womb of Mary. How would you respond to someone who says you should only pray to God and not to Mary and the saints?
3. St. John is Christ's beloved disciple. How is Jesus' command to St. John to "Behold your mother" a challenge to us in our own prayer life and journey with Jesus?

COMMIT

Every day this week, commit to praying the great prayer asking for Mary's intercession: The Memorare.

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, we fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins our Mother; to thee do we come, before thee we stand, sinful and sorrowful; O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in thy mercy, hear and answer us. Amen.

OPTIONAL: PRAYER INTENTIONS

We want to pray for you and your intentions. If you want, share with us (Sarah and the Core Team) anything you want prayers for this week.

"In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.'" —Luke 1:39-45