

## January 1 – Solemnity of Mary

Upon arriving the angel said to her, "Rejoice O highly favored daughter! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women." Luke 1:28

The Solemnity of Mary is observed on January 1 and is a holy day of obligation. This day is the major feast day of Mary. We treasure the life and contributions Mary made to the life of Jesus and the Church. We honor her as a faithful servant of God and Mother of Jesus.

### Prayer

Holy Mary, Mother of God, we ask you to pray for us this day. What an example of faithfulness you are to us. Without hesitating you said yes to God when the angel Gabriel told you that you would have a son who should be named Jesus, who would be born to you by the power of the Holy Spirit. We pray that as we grow in faith we too will say yes to God. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

### Activities

#### *Mary's Prayer*

Pray the Hail Mary with the children.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.

Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

#### *Mary Discussion*

Talk about the kind of woman Mary was. Was she prayerful? What kinds of things did she teach Jesus? Look at some paintings that illustrate Mary. How did artists see her?

#### *Flowers for Mary*

Place flowers in your prayer center as a reminder of this special day to remember Mary.

#### *Altar Visit*

If your church has an altar dedicated to Mary, visit it, light a candle and share one of the above prayers.

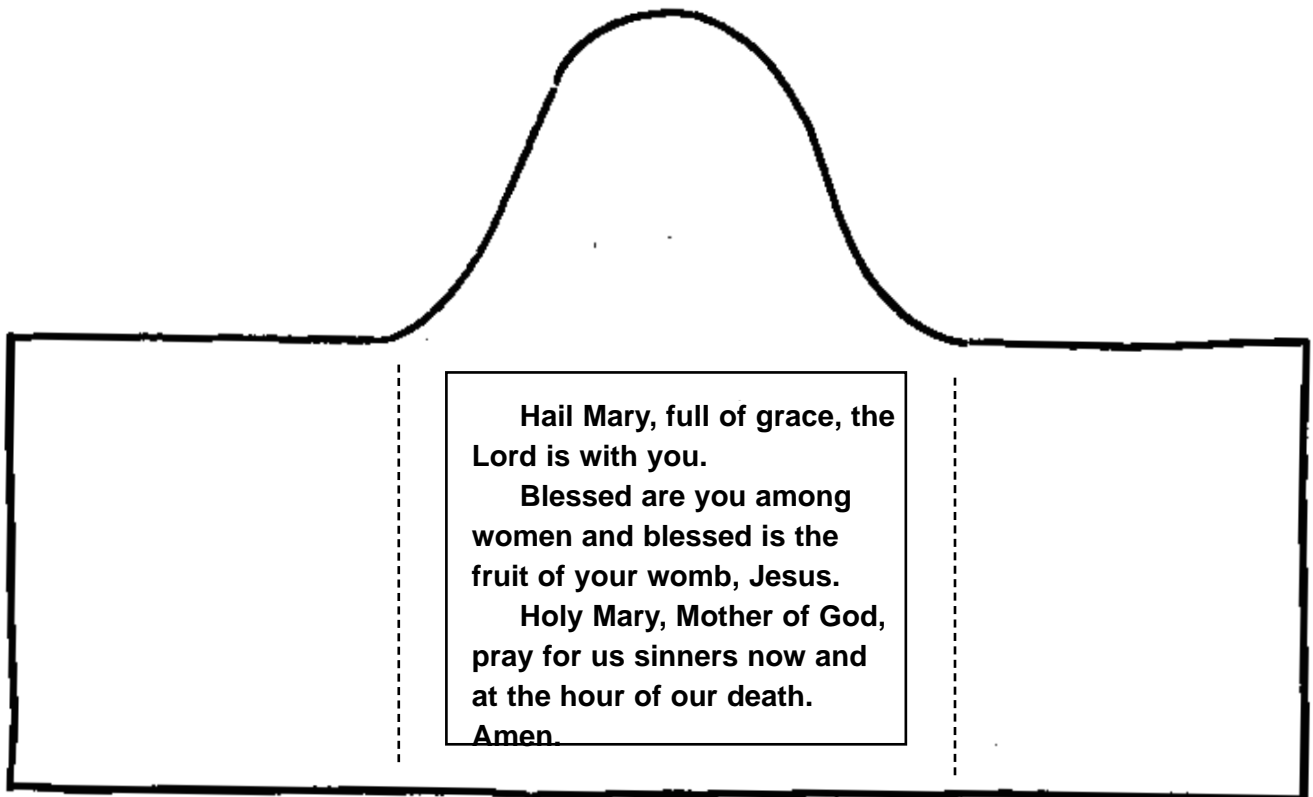
#### *White Ribbons*

Tie a white ribbon around the wrist of each child as a reminder of this special day to honor Mary.

#### *Hail Mary Prayer Card*

Use the pattern below to make a prayer card with the Hail Mary to send home. Enlarge and trace the pattern below on brightly colored construction paper. Have the children draw Mary's face in the rounded top of the pattern. Glue a paper card, with the Hail Mary printed on it, to the center as shown. Fold the sides toward the center; they will overlap. Decorate the front and back of the prayer card with stickers.

January



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Amen.