

# Mary, the Mother of God

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Mary has been venerated since early Christianity, considered by millions to be the holiest and greatest saint, and served as a favorite subject in Western art, music, and literature. During the month of May, we celebrate our devotion to Mary and commemorate her extraordinary role as a mother to both Jesus Christ and the whole of humanity.

According to the gospels of Matthew and Luke, Mary was a first-century Jewish woman of Nazareth, the wife of Joseph, and the mother of Jesus. She conceived Jesus through the Holy Spirit, and accompanied Joseph to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born.

The Catholic Church holds distinctive Marian dogmas, namely her status as the Mother of God, her Immaculate Conception, her perpetual virginity, and her Assumption into heaven. Popular devotions in the form of feasts, services, and the rosary, have played a tremendously important role in the lives of Roman Catholics.

*Hail Mary, Full of Grace, The Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou among 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.*

Indeed, Mary is a central figure in the Catholic faith and her life illustrates how our Almighty Father works in our lives. Mary's humility, simplicity, and charity embodied the way she lived her life. Her freedom to serve Christ's mission, bring him into the world, and ponder the significance of his life became the pattern for both collective and individual discipleship.

This is what Mary proclaimed when she became the mother of God, and this is the mission we continue today. Being called by God requires total commitment and a willingness to sacrifice everything out of love. When we say 'yes,' God is inviting us to what is already within our capacity; inviting us to see our ordinary roles as sacred.

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