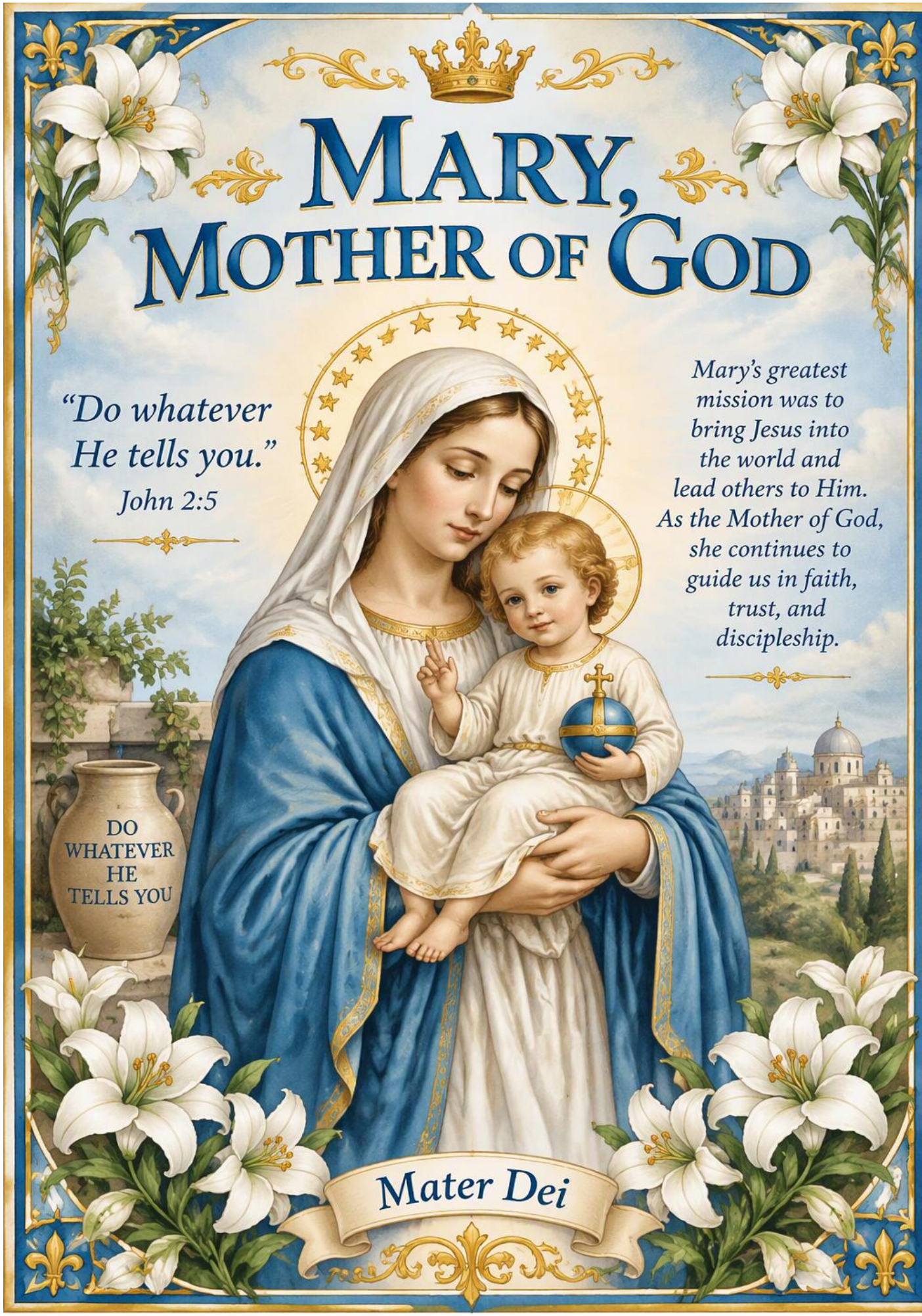
Mary, Mother of God



JANUARY MARIAN TEACHING PACKET

Mary, Mother of God & St. John Neumann

MARY LEADS US TO JESUS

Mary, Mother of God

Theme: Beginning the Year with Mary's "Yes"

Featured Feast Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Virtue Obedience

Mary, Mother of God

January begins with one of the Church's most important celebrations: the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. This feast reminds us that Jesus is truly God and truly man. Because Mary gave birth to Jesus, she is honored as the Mother of God.

Mary trusted God completely. When the angel Gabriel announced God's plan, she responded with a faithful "yes." Throughout her life, Mary continued to obey God with courage, humility, and love.

As we begin a new year, we ask Mary to help us listen to God and follow Him faithfully.

Think About It

- What does obedience mean?
- Why was Mary's "yes" important?
- How can I say "yes" to God this year?

FEAST DAY SPOTLIGHT

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Celebrated:

January 1

Why Do We Celebrate?

The Church celebrates Mary's role as the Mother of Jesus Christ. Since Jesus is God the Son, Mary is honored with the title "Mother of God."

This feast also reminds us that Mary continues to care for all God's children

TEACHER OVERVIEW

Objectives--Students will:

- Learn about Mary as the Mother of God
- Discover the life of St. John Neumann
- Appreciate the gift of Catholic education
- Practice the virtue of faithfulness
- Pray the Angelus

Essential Question

How can Mary and St. John Neumann help us follow Jesus more faithfully?

Key Vocabulary

- Mother of God
- Faithfulness
- Disciple
- Angelus
- St. John Neumann
- Catholic Schools

K-2 LESSON

Mary Is the Mother of Jesus

Mary's "yes" teaches us an important virtue called **obedience**. Obedience means listening and choosing to do what is right.

We can practice obedience when we:

- Listen to our parents.
- Follow our teachers' directions.
- Pray and listen to God.
- Make kind choices.

Mary helps us learn how to trust God every day.

K-2 ACTIVITY PAGE

Following Mary's Example

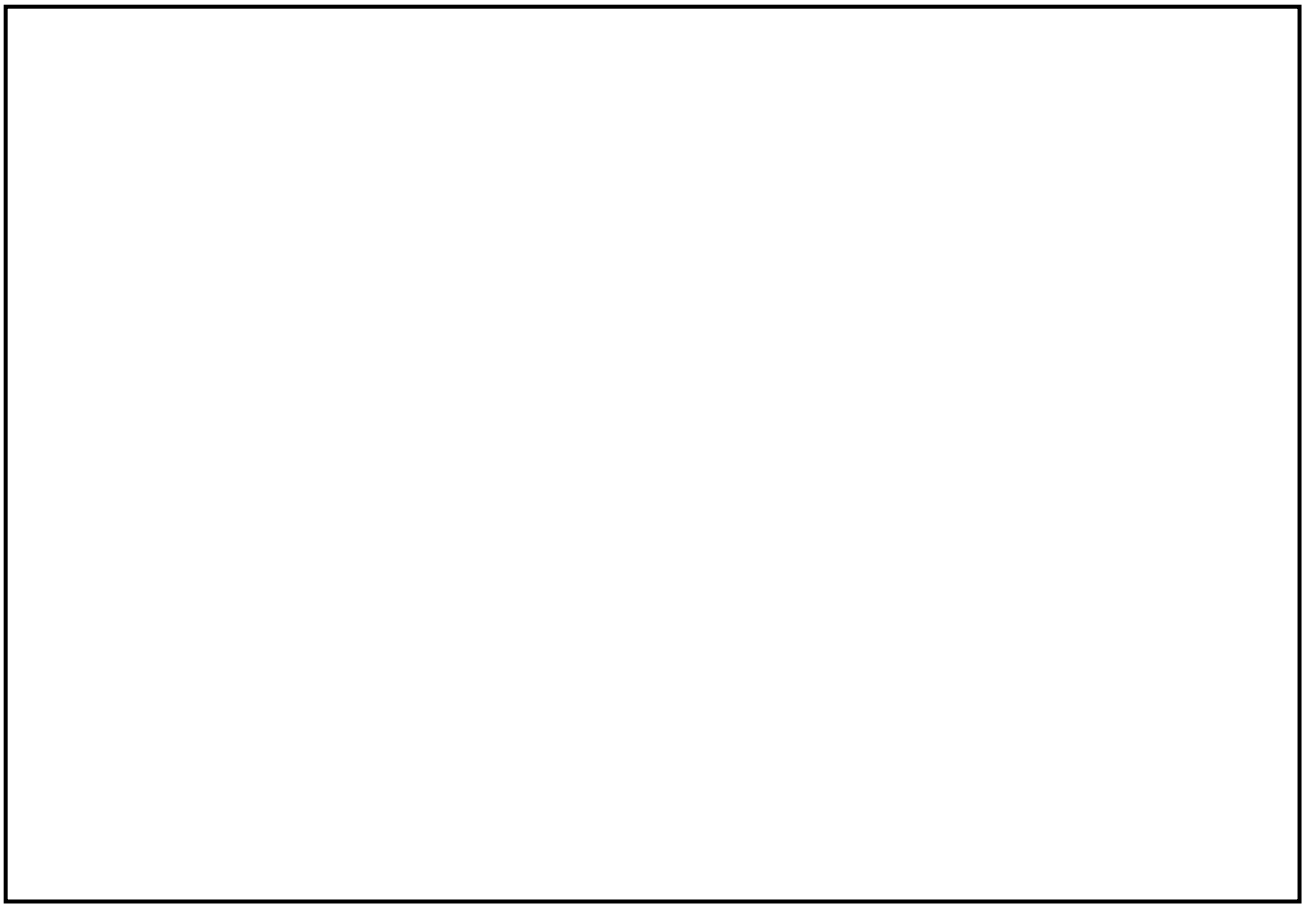
Name: _____

Circle the Good Choices

Pray	Share
Help a Friend	Listen when I want to
Help at home	Be Kind
Do not share	Hide someone's book

Draw a Picture

Draw yourself helping someone at home or school.



MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Name: _____

"Do whatever He tells you."
John 2:5

Mary always leads us to Jesus!



Hail Mary, full of grace, pray for us!

JANUARY K-2 STUDENT WORKSHEET

Mary, Mother of God

Name: _____

Mary Said "YES!"

Mary listened to God's plan and said YES!

Write the word:

YES YES YES

_____

_____

Circle What Shows Obedience

Circle the pictures that show someone saying "yes" to God.









Color the Heart

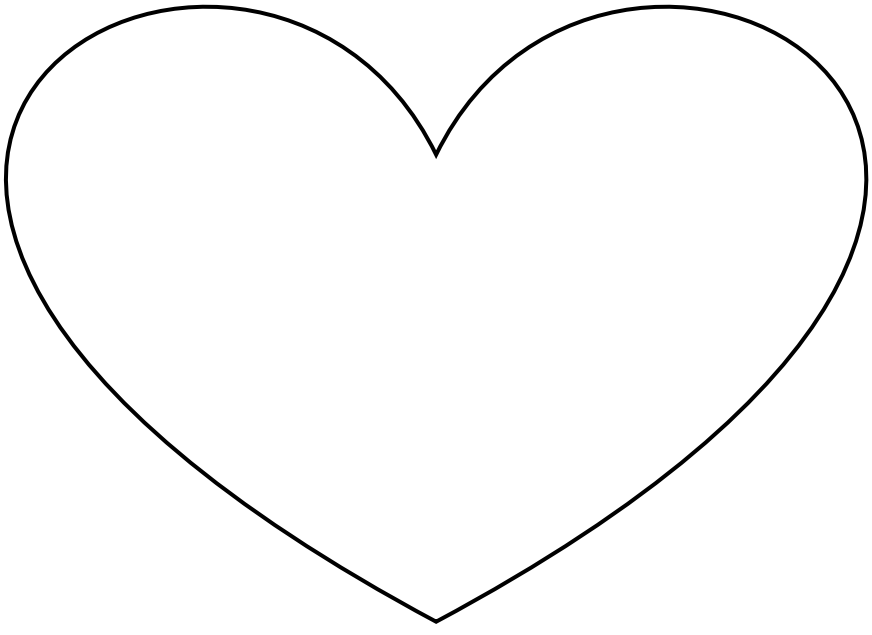
Inside the heart,

draw yourself

doing one good thing

this week.

❤️



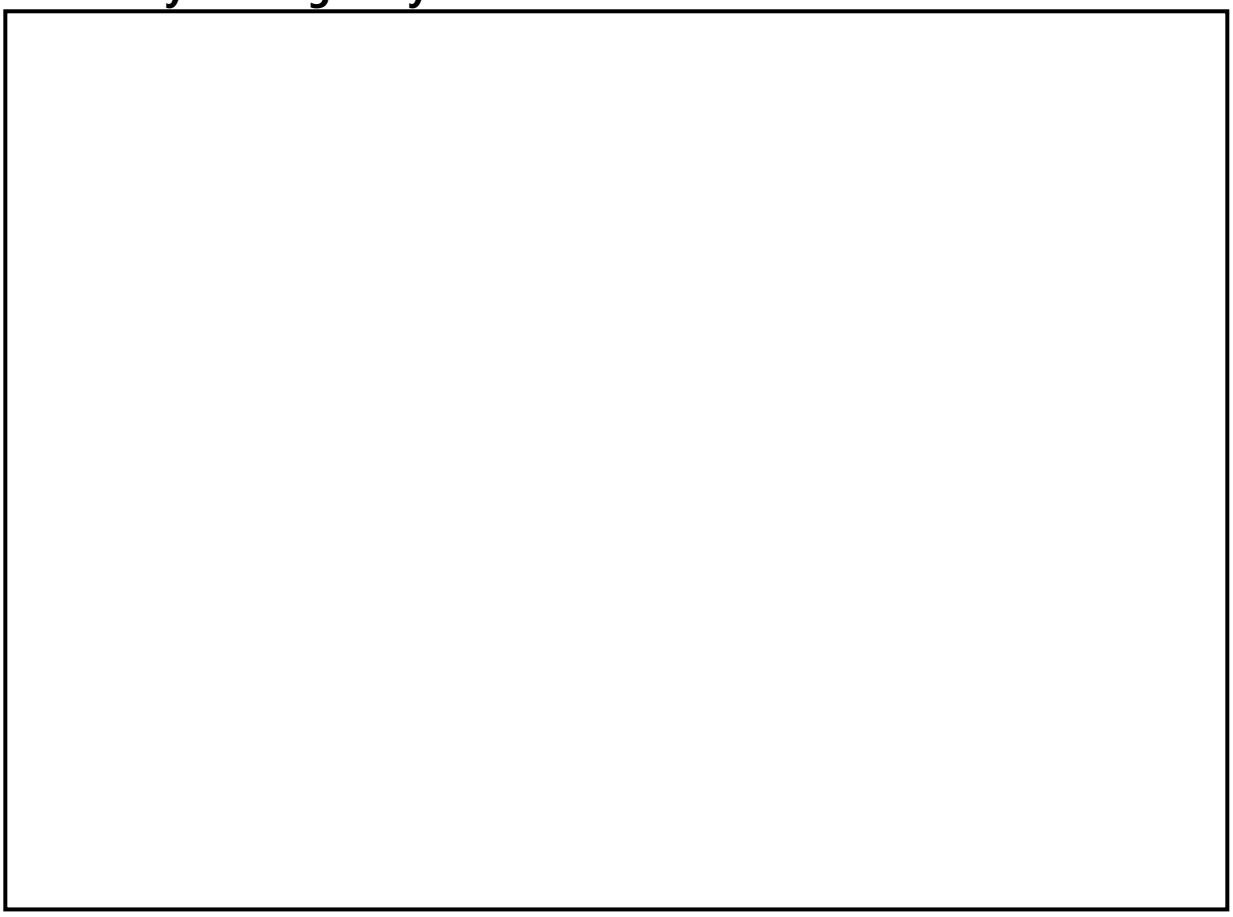
Complete the sentence:

St. John Neumann helped build

□ playgrounds □ Catholic schools □ toy stores

Draw and Color

Draw Mary holding Baby Jesus.



Prayer Corner

Mary, Mother of God, pray for us.

GRADES 3-5 LESSON

Mary, Mother of God

Monthly Theme--Saying "Yes" to God

January begins with a special feast honoring Mary, the Mother of God. The Church celebrates Mary's role in God's plan of salvation and remembers her faithful "yes" when the Angel Gabriel announced that she would become the mother of Jesus.

Mary trusted God completely. Her obedience teaches us how to follow God's will with courage, love, and faith.

As we begin a new year, we ask Mary to help us say "yes" to God each day.

Scripture Reflection - Luke 1:38

"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."

Mary's words show complete trust in God. She listened, believed, and obeyed.

Think About It

- What was Mary saying "yes" to?
- Why do you think it was difficult?
- How can you trust God more this year?

What Does "Mother of God" Mean?

Mary is called the **Mother of God** because she gave birth to Jesus.

Jesus is:

- Fully God
- Fully human
- The Son of God

Because Jesus is God, Mary is honored as the **Mother of God**.

This title reminds us how important Mary's role is in God's plan.

The Virtue of Obedience

Obedience means:

✓ Listening carefully

✓ Doing what is right

✓ Following God's ways

✓ Trusting God's plan

Ways We Practice Obedience

☐ Following directions

☐ Attending Mass

☐ Completing responsibilities

☐ Spending time in prayer

☐ Speaking kindly

☐ Helping others

Saint Spotlight--St. John Neumann

Feast Day: January 5

St. John Neumann was the fourth Bishop of Philadelphia. He devoted his life to helping children receive a Catholic education and helped establish many Catholic schools.He loved Jesus deeply and had a special devotion to **Our Lady of Perpetual Help**. Like Mary, St. John Neumann responded to God's call with faith and obedience.

What Can We Learn?

St. John Neumann teaches us to:

✓ Love learning

✓ Trust God

✓ Serve others

✓ Value Catholic education

Prayer Focus--The Angelus

The Angelus is a prayer that helps us remember Mary's "yes" to God.

The Angelus Teaches Us:

- God has a plan for each person.
- Jesus became one of us.
- Mary trusted God's plan.
- We are called to follow Him.

Reflection

How does Mary help us grow closer to Jesus?

GRADES 3-5 ACTIVITY

Mary's Faithfulness

Name: _____

Complete the Sentences

Mary showed faithfulness when she:

_____

_____

I can show faithfulness by:

_____

_____

Challenge

Write one way you will imitate Mary this week.

_____

_____

_____

St. John Neumann

St. John Neumann became the fourth Bishop of Philadelphia.
He loved Catholic education and helped establish many Catholic schools.
He encouraged children to grow in faith and knowledge.
St. John Neumann also had a deep devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Think About It --Why are Catholic schools important?

ST. JOHN NEUMANN ACTIVITY

Building Schools, Building Faith

Name: _____

Complete the Activity

Draw something in a a Catholic school that helps students learn about Jesus.

Reflection

How does your school help you grow in faith?

_____

_____

STUDENT WORKSHEET

Mary, Mother of God

Name _____Date _____

Part 1

Vocabulary Review

Complete the sentences.

1. Mary is the _____.
2. The virtue for January is _____.
3. The prayer focus for January is the _____.
4. St. John Neumann helped build many _____ schools.

Part 2--Scripture Reflection

Read:" May it be done to me according to your word." Luke 1:38

Mary's words teach us about:

☐ Courage ☐ Trust

☐ Obedience ☐ All of the Above

Part 3--True or False

Write T or F.

_____ Mary trusted God's plan.

_____ Obedience means doing whatever we want.

_____ Jesus is God's Son.

_____ St. John Neumann was a bishop.

_____ The Angelus remembers Mary's "yes."

Part 4

Saint Spotlight

Circle the correct answer.

St. John Neumann was:

○ A Teacher ○ A Bishop ○ A Farmer

He helped establish:

○ Factories ○ Libraries ○ Catholic Schools

He had a special devotion to:

○ St. Joseph ○ Our Lady of Perpetual Help ○ St. Francis

Part 5

My New Year "Yes" to God

Write three ways you can imitate Mary this month.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Part 6

Catholic Schools Week Reflection

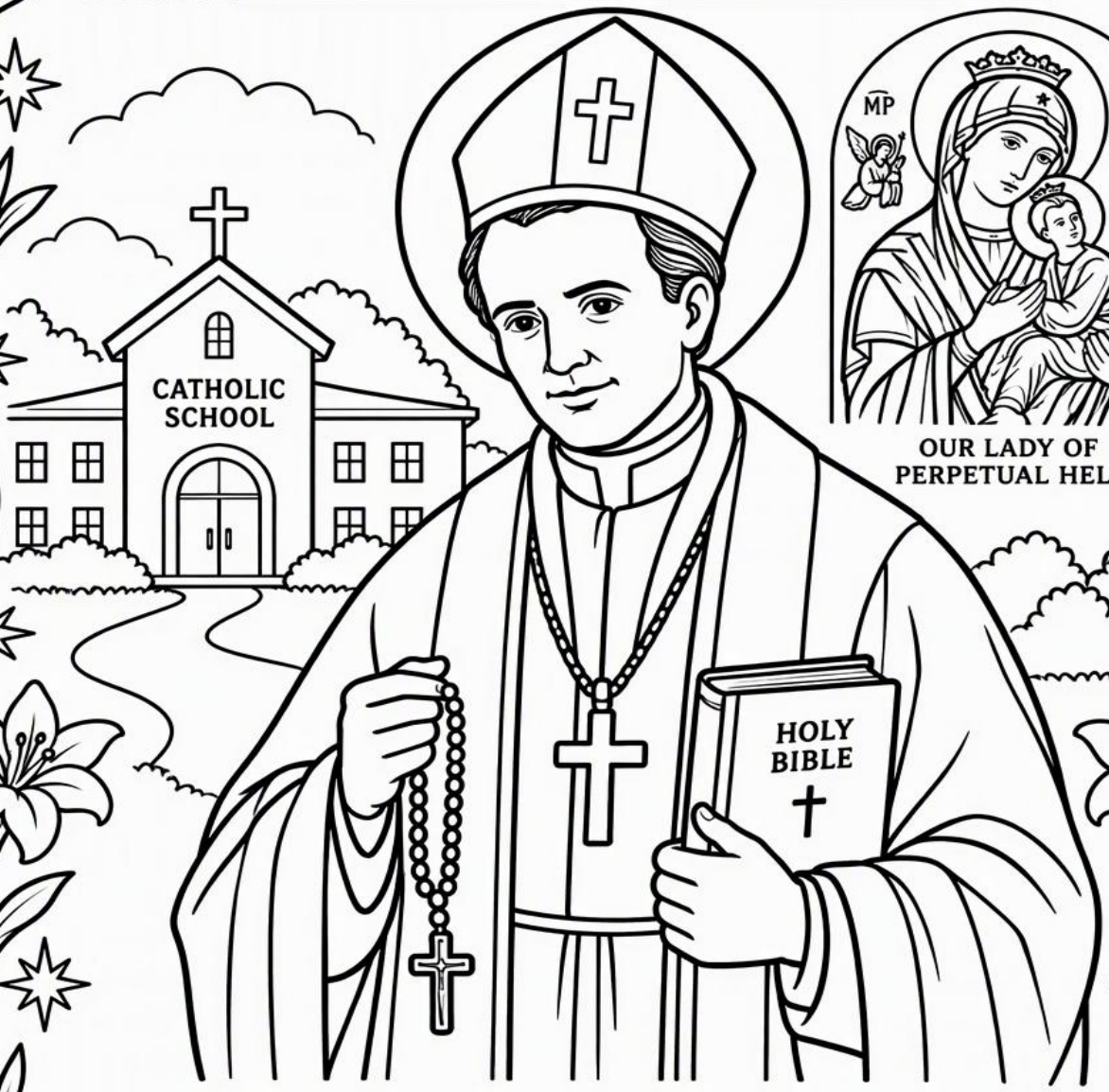
I am thankful for my Catholic school because:

_____

_____

ST. JOHN NEUMANN

Name: _____



"Faithful Bishop, Teacher, and Friend of Catholic Schools"

St. John Neumann loved Jesus and honored Mary as Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

St. John Neumann, *pray for us.*

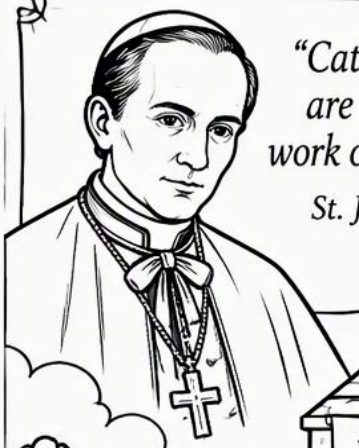
Learn
Grow
Serve
Belong

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

FAITH • KNOWLEDGE • SERVICE • LEADERSHIP

Faith
Builds
a Brighter
Tomorrow

Name: _____



"Catholic schools are the greatest work of the Church."

St. John Neumann

Catholic schools help us:

- Grow in our faith.
- Learn about the world God made.
- Serve others with kindness.
- Become leaders who make a positive difference.

MY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Draw a picture of your school or something you love about it.

A place to learn, a place to pray, a place to grow!

CATHOLIC SCHOOL SCAVENGER HUNT

Look for these symbols in your school.
Check the ones you find.

- ☐ A Cross
- ☐ Books
- ☐ A Chalice
- ☐ A Globe
- ☐ A Heart
- ☐ A Reference to a Saint
- ☐ A Sign of Music or the Arts
- ☐ A Place to Help Others

BONUS

Interview a teacher or staff member.
Ask:
"What do you love most about our Catholic school?"

_____
_____
_____

Catholic Schools:
Faithful Today, Bright Tomorrow

GRADES 6-8 LESSON

Featured Feast: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Marian Virtue: Obedience

Prayer Focus: The Angelus

Saint Spotlight: St. John Neumann

Essential Question

What can Mary's "yes" teach us about trusting God and responding to His call in our lives?

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Explain why Mary is called the Mother of God.
- Analyze the virtue of obedience as demonstrated by Mary.
- Understand the significance of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.
- Connect the Angelus prayer to the Incarnation.
- Examine how St. John Neumann followed God's call through service and education.
- Reflect on how obedience can strengthen faith and character.

Opening Prayer

Mary, Mother of God, help us listen carefully to God's voice. Give us the courage to trust His plan, even when we do not know where it will lead. Through your example and the witness of St. John Neumann, help us grow in wisdom, faith, and obedience. Amen.

Mary, Mother of God

The Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God on January 1. This title does not mean Mary existed before God. Rather, it proclaims an important truth about Jesus.

Jesus is one divine Person with two natures:

- Fully God
- Fully Human

Because Mary gave birth to Jesus, and Jesus is truly God, the Church honors her as the **Mother of God**. This title reminds us of Mary's unique role in God's plan of salvation and points us toward Jesus.

Scripture Reflection--Luke 1:38

"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."

Mary's response to the Angel Gabriel is one of the most important moments in salvation history. She did not know all that would happen. She did not understand every detail. She simply trusted God. Her obedience changed the world.

The Virtue of Obedience

Many people think obedience means blindly following rules. Christian obedience is deeper.

It means:

- Listening for God's voice
- Trusting His wisdom
- Choosing what is right
- Following God's will even when it is difficult

Reflection

Think about a time when doing the right thing required courage.

How did obedience help you grow?

Prayer Focus

The Angelus

The Angelus commemorates the Incarnation, when the Son of God became man through Mary's willing cooperation with God's plan.

Traditionally prayed in the morning, noon, and evening, the Angelus reminds believers to pause and remember God's presence throughout the day.

Central Themes

✓ God's invitation

✓ Mary's response

✓ The Incarnation

✓ Discipleship

Saint Spotlight

St. John Neumann

Feast Day: January 5

St. John Neumann served as the fourth Bishop of Philadelphia and became one of the most influential leaders in Catholic education in the United States.

Recognizing the importance of faith formation, he established schools, supported Catholic teachers, and ensured that children could receive both academic and religious instruction.

He also fostered devotion to Mary, particularly **Our Lady of Perpetual Help**.

His life demonstrates how obedience to God's call can transform an entire community.

Discussion

How did St. John Neumann use his gifts to serve others?

How does Catholic education continue his mission today?

Discussion Questions

1. Why does the Church call Mary the Mother of God?
2. How is Christian obedience different from simple rule-following?
3. What risks did Mary take when she said yes to God?
4. Why is the Angelus an important prayer?
5. What can students learn from St. John Neumann's dedication to education?

GRADES 6-8 REFLECTION
Faith in Action

Name: _____

1. Why is the title "Mother of God" important?

2. How did St. John Neumann serve the Church?

3. What challenges people to live faithfully today?

PRAYER

The Angelus

The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.
And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.
Hail Mary, full of grace...
Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
Be it done unto me according to thy word.
Hail Mary, full of grace...
And the Word was made flesh.
And dwelt among us.
Hail Mary, full of grace...
Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.
That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.
Let us pray. Pour forth, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

FAMILY FAITH PAGE
Learning Faith at Home

Family Challenge

☐ Pray together each day.

☐ Attend Mass together.

☐ Learn about a favorite saint.

☐ Pray a Hail Mary for Catholic schools.

Family Discussion

Why is faith an important part of our family's life?

St. John Neumann Research Challenge

Find the answers:

1. Where was St. John Neumann born?

---

2. What city did he serve as bishop?

---

3. Why is he remembered today?

Bonus

Locate Philadelphia on a map and mark St. Peter the Apostle Church, where St. John Neumann's shrine is located.

PHILADELPHIA FAITH ADVENTURE

Discover Our Catholic Heritage

Faith
History
People
Purpose

A City
of Faith
A Bright
Tomorrow

Name: _____



Map Activity

- ☐ Find and color the Delaware River blue.
- ☐ Find and color the Schuylkill River blue.
- ☐ Locate and mark St. Peter the Apostle Church (Shrine of St. John Neumann) with a star.
- ☐ Locate and mark the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul with a star.
- ☐ Color the city of Philadelphia.
- ☐ Color the compass rose.

Did You Know?

- St. John Neumann was the fourth Bishop of Philadelphia.
- He loved Catholic education and helped establish many Catholic schools.
- The Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul is the mother church of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.
- Philadelphia is home to many parishes, schools, and saints!



One Church • One City • One Family in Faith

Draw your favorite Philadelphia Catholic landmark.



Faith lives here!

Reflection

St. John Neumann served the people of Philadelphia with love and dedication. How can I serve my school and parish community?

_____

_____

_____

_____

Be a Light for Others!

"Let your light shine before others."
Matthew 5:16

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK PAGE

Celebrating Catholic Schools

Catholic schools help students grow:

✓ In Faith

✓ In Service

✓ In Knowledge

✓ In Leadership

My Catholic School

My favorite thing about Catholic school is:

Prayer

Jesus, help our school be a place where faith, learning, and kindness grow every day.

Amen.

January Marian Challenge

This Month I Will:

☐ Pray Daily

☐ Learn More About My Faith

☐ Practice Kindness

☐ Thank My Teachers

☐ Follow Mary's Example

Scripture Do whatever He tells you." John 2:5"

St. John Neumann, Pray for Us

Mary, Mother of God, Pray for Us

ST. JOHN NEUMANN

BISHOP • EDUCATOR • FAITHFUL SERVANT

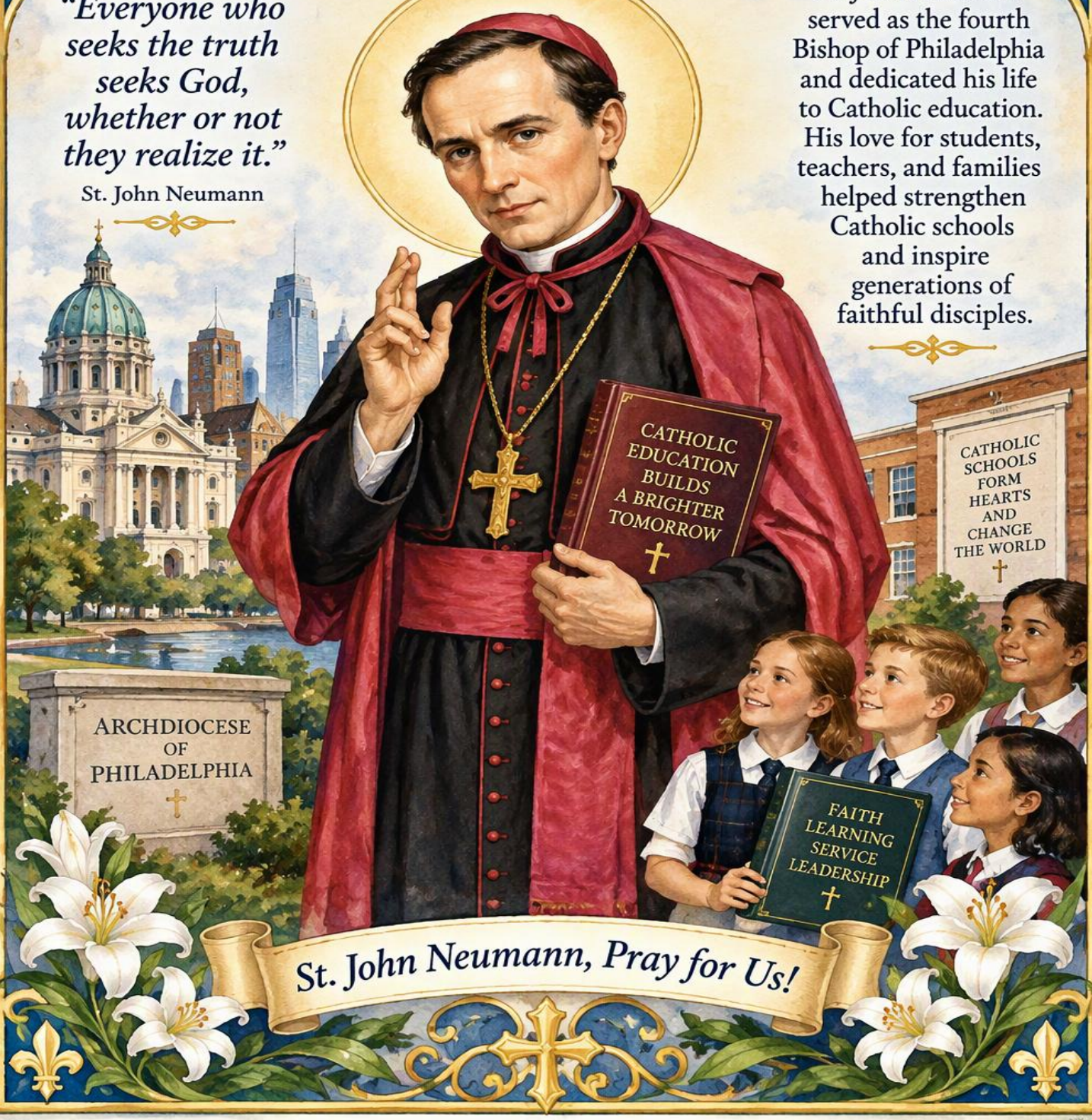
PRAY
LEARN
SERVE
GROW

FAITH
KNOWLEDGE
KINDNESS
A BRIGHTER
TOMORROW

"Everyone who seeks the truth seeks God, whether or not they realize it."

St. John Neumann

St. John Neumann served as the fourth Bishop of Philadelphia and dedicated his life to Catholic education. His love for students, teachers, and families helped strengthen Catholic schools and inspire generations of faithful disciples.



St. John Neumann, Pray for Us!