

Catholic Trivia 5-8-26 Answers:

1. Mary, the mother of Jesus, is featured prominently in the Gospels of Luke and Matthew, specifically regarding the Nativity, the Annunciation, and the Visitation. She is portrayed as a faithful servant of God, a virgin who conceived her Son by the Holy Spirit, and a devoted mother who "pondered" divine actions in her heart. Her name is also mentioned in the gospel of Mark. John refers to her twice as "the mother of Jesus," but not by name.
2. The Gospel of John is the only one of the four canonical gospels that places Mary, the mother of Jesus, at the foot of the cross during the crucifixion (John 19:25-27). While the other gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) mention women watching from a distance, John specifically describes Mary and other women standing close enough to hear Jesus speak.
3. The presence of the mother of Jesus and the Beloved Disciple at the foot of the cross (John 19:26-27) symbolizes the birth of the Church, with Mary as the spiritual mother of all believers. Jesus establishes a new family of faith—replacing blood ties—by entrusting his mother to the disciple and vice-versa, representing the union between the Mother Church and faithful disciples.
4. According to Catholic and Orthodox doctrine, Mary is **not worshipped**; she is honored or **venerated** (*hyperdulia*), which is distinct from the worship (*latria*) reserved solely for God. While Catholics pray *to* Mary, it is to request her intercession, not to adore her as divine. Worship of anyone other than God is forbidden as idolatry.
5. The Four Marian Dogmas that we believe are divinely revealed are
 - **Mother of God (*Theotokos*)**: Formally defined at the Council of Ephesus (431 AD), this teaches that Mary is truly the Mother of God because she gave birth to the second person of the Trinity, who is both fully human and fully divine.
 - **Immaculate Conception**: Defined by Pope Pius IX in 1854, this holds that Mary was preserved from the stain of original sin from the first moment of her own conception, made "full of grace" to be a fitting vessel for Christ.
 - **Perpetual Virginity**: The belief that Mary remained a virgin before, during, and after the birth of Jesus.
 - **The Assumption**: Formally defined by Pope Pius XII in 1950, this teaches that Mary was taken up body and soul into heaven at the end of her earthly life

