



Mary, Mother of Jesus

Feast day: January 1

Patron: of all humanity

Birth: September 8, *Nativity of Mary*

Death: August 15, *Assumption of Mary*

Mary, Mother of Jesus, is the most revered woman in the Catholic hierarchy of Saints. We especially single out two months of the year, October and May, when we celebrate her (in addition to the many other days we honor her, such as the Immaculate Conception, celebrated on December 8 and Holy Mary Mother of God, celebrated on January 1st). In May, we celebrate Mary as the Queen of Heaven, and honor her with flowers on May 1st. In October, we celebrate the Rosary, that prayer that we make to Jesus, through Mary, his Blessed Mother.

Mary would have been born around the year 20 B.C., in the area around Galilee. We know that she was engaged to Joseph, and since the age of marriage at the time was around 13 or 14, she was most likely a young teenager at the time of her engagement. Luke's gospel tells us of the visit paid to her by the Angel of the Lord, who advised her that she had been chosen by God to bear a son, and call him Jesus. She accepted this role, and thus became the Mother of God.

Mary is considered the first Christian, in that she was the first person to follow Jesus, and encouraged him in his ministry. She has many names – Queen of Heaven, Mother of God, Blessed, Mother of the Church, Star of the Sea, Undoer of Knots. We ask her to pray for us, to God the Father and to God her Son, Jesus.

Praying the rosary is a way to bring yourself closer to Mary. Pray a decade or all five. Choose the mysteries to meditate on as you pray - The Joyful Mysteries, The Mysteries of Light, The Sorrowful Mysteries, or The Glorious Mysteries. Use a plastic rosary, one with beads made of precious stone, or even your fingers—the material doesn't matter, letting your heart call out to Our Lady, and asking her intercession is what is important.