

History of Mary's Month

For Catholics since the fifteenth century, the first day of May heralds an entire month that is dedicated to Mary. In many parts of the world, May also marks the beginning of spring. Who better represents the hope and rebirth of spring than Mary, the one who bore and raised Jesus?

Next to her son, Jesus, Mary is the most beloved and revered of all who populate Catholic history and tradition. She also had the most miraculous and astounding life of any known saint. First, she was born without sin and remained without sin throughout her life. No other human can claim this distinction.

'Catholic Seasonal Celebrations' / Bayard



Marian Months: May and October as "Marian" months must always reflect and support the context of the Liturgical Year. Weekdays of May generally fall within the Easter Season. Thus, May devotions highlight the special sharing of the Blessed Virgin in the Paschal Mystery of Christ her Son, including the Pentecost event in which she joined with the Apostles awaiting the gift of the Holy Spirit. October often includes the rosary, always recited as a prayerful reflection on the entire Paschal Mystery. On Sundays especially, celebrations must always respect the best traditions of the Church and its liturgical regulations.

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Various Solemnities, Feasts and Memorials for Mary on the Calendar

January 1	The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
February 11	Our Lay of Lourdes (optional memorial)
March 25	The Annunciation of the Lord (Mary's Yes!)
April 26	Our Lady of Good Counsel
May 31	The Feast of The Visitation of the Virgin Mary to Elizabeth
*The Monday following Pentecost: Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church (memorial)	
*The Saturday following the Sacred Heart of Jesus: The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary (memorial)	
July 16	Our Lady of Mount Carmel (optional memorial)
August 15	The Solemnity of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
August 22	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary (memorial)
September 8	The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Feast)
September 15	Our Lady of Sorrows (memorial)
October 7	Our Lady of the Rosary (memorial)
November 21	The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (memorial)
December 8	The Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
December 12	Our Lady of Guadalupe (Feast)

The Blessed Virgin Mary



The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: 487 What the Catholic faith believes about Mary is based on what it believes about Christ, and what it teaches about Mary illumines in turn its faith in Christ.



This pamphlet has been put together by the Prince Albert Roman Catholic Diocese, Liturgy Office.

Mary's Motherhood with regard to the Church

967 By her complete adherence to the Father's will, to his Son's redemptive work, and to every prompting of the Holy Spirit, the Virgin Mary is the Church's model of faith and charity...

968 Her role in relation to the Church and to all humanity goes still further. "In a wholly singular way she cooperated by her obedience, faith, hope, and burning charity in the Saviour's work of restoring supernatural life to souls. For this reason she is a mother to us in the order of grace."

969 "This motherhood of Mary in the order of grace continues uninterrupted from the consent which she loyally gave at the annunciation and which she sustained without wavering beneath the cross, until the eternal fulfillment of all the elect. Taken up to heaven she did not lay aside this saving office but by her manifold intercession continues to bring us the gifts of eternal salvation..."

"Catechism of the Catholic Church" second edition
/Libreria Editrice Vaticana /CCCB



Mary in the Liturgy

Mary is referred to in the creeds, mentioned in the Eucharistic Prayer, alluded to in some options of the penitential rite, honoured with a choice of Marian prefaces, and memorialized with fourteen feast days in the liturgical calendar. In addition, there is a choice of votive Masses and common Masses of the Blessed Virgin which include a choice from among dozens of Scripture readings to provide appropriate texts and to harmonize the occasion with the liturgical season.

Titles of Mary

Marian titles are virtually countless. Many are collected in the Litany of the Blessed Virgin. Some, like 'Our Lady of Guadalupe', come from apparitions through the years. All, like 'Our Mother of Perpetual Help,' have a story to tell.

'The Catholic Sourcebook'
/Harcourt Religion Publishers

Prayers and Devotions to Mary, Mother of God

Angelus

The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.
R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit. (Hail Mary)
Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
R. May it be done unto me according to your Word.
(Hail Mary)
And the Word was made flesh.
R. And dwelt among us. (Hail Mary)
Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
R. That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.
Let us pray: O Lord, it was through the message of an angel that we learned of the Incarnation of Christ, your Son. Pour your grace into our hearts, and by his Passion and Cross bring us to the glory of his Resurrection. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Queen of Heaven: 'Regina Coeli'

(Prayer during the Easter Season instead of the Angelus)

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.
R. The Son whom you were privileged to bear, alleluia, has risen as he said, alleluia.
Pray to God for us, alleluia. Rejoice and be glad, Virgin Mary, alleluia.
R. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.
Let us Pray: O God, it was by the Resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, that you brought joy to the world. Grant that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, his Mother, we may attain the joy of eternal life. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Remember, O Most Gracious Virgin Mary: 'Memorare'

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implore your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to you, O virgin of virgins, my mother. To you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer me. Amen.

'Catholic Prayers'
/ A Redemptorist Pastoral Publication

What is a Rosary?

The Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a string of beads used for counting prayers... The idea is to let your mind focus on the prayers instead of on counting them. Since it is a long series of prayers, the goal is for the rosary to become a way to enter into meditation, where even the words of the prayers become less important than the times spent meditating upon Christ and his saving acts.

'Catholic FAQs' by Dr. Glenn Byer and Catherine Mulroney



Hail Holy Queen

(This prayer is prayed following the last decade of the rosary)

Hail! Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To you do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, O most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us; and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus. O Clement! O loving! O sweet Virgin Mary!

V. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God
R. That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.

Consecration to Mary

This devotional act, promoted by Saint Louis de Montfort (1673-1716), consists of the entire gift of self to Jesus through Mary, being a habitual attitude of dependence on her.

'The Catholic Sourcebook'
/Harcourt Religion Publishers.