



The Annunciation

God sent the angel Gabriel to the town of Nazareth to give a message to Mary. Gabriel greeted Mary by saying, “Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you.” At first Mary was afraid. She wondered what this greeting might mean, but Gabriel told her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.” Gabriel then told Mary that she would have a son and name him Jesus. “He will be called Son of the Most High,” said Gabriel, “and his kingdom will have no end.”

Mary asked Gabriel, “How can this be?” She was confused since she and Joseph were engaged but not yet married.

Gabriel told Mary that she would give birth by the power of the Holy Spirit. Her child would be the Son of God. Then Gabriel said, “Your relative, Elizabeth, will also have a child, even though she is old; for nothing is impossible with God.”

Mary replied, “I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.”

adapted from Luke 1:26–38



The First Disciple

When Gabriel told Mary that she would be Jesus' mother, she had a choice to make. Mary could have said no to God's request. God, however, already had given her another gift—the grace to say yes to what God asked her to do. When Mary accepted God's will, her answer was total and complete: "May it be done to me according to your word." Her joyful acceptance of God's message made Mary the first and the greatest of the disciples. In becoming Jesus' mother, Mary became the Mother of God.

Like Mary, we are called to discipleship. We say yes to this call by following Jesus, telling others about the Kingdom of God, and caring for creation. We are also called to **solidarity** with the whole world, especially people who are poor, suffering, or vulnerable. Each member of the Church responds to the call of discipleship and solidarity by using the gifts we have received from God.



Link to Liturgy

During the liturgical year, there are many feast days honoring Mary. Saturdays are also dedicated to Marian devotions.

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Prayer

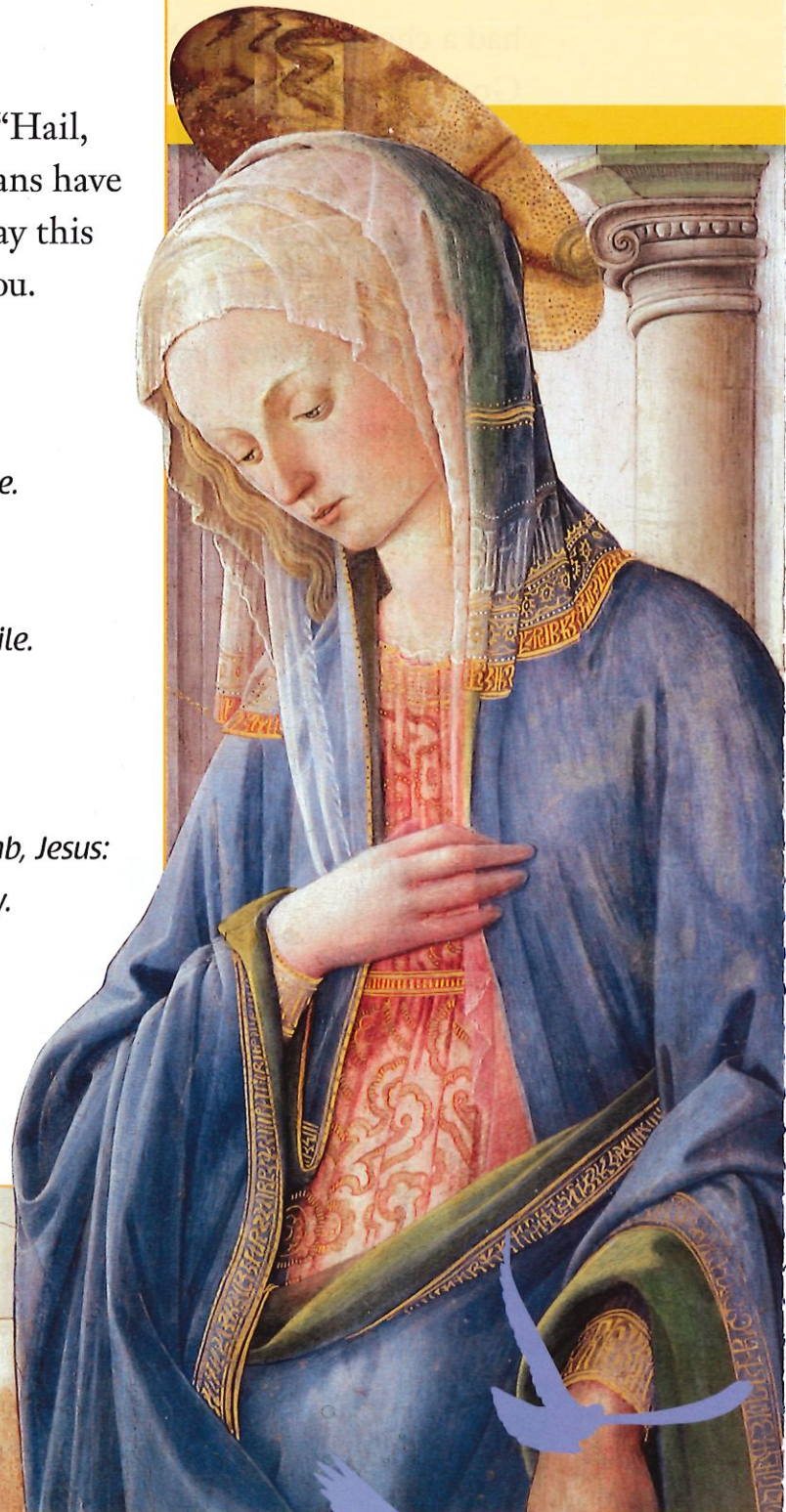
Mother of Mercy

The *Salve Regina*, usually translated “Hail, Holy Queen,” is a prayer that Christians have been praying for centuries. As you pray this prayer, imagine that Mary is next to you.

Salve Regina

*Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy,
hail, our life, our sweetness, and our hope.
To you we cry, the children of Eve;
to you we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this land of exile.
Turn, then, most gracious advocate,
your eyes of mercy toward us;
lead us home at last
and show us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus:
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.*

Take a moment to talk with Mary.
Thank her for saying yes to God.
Ask her to pray for you, so that you
will always say yes to God too.

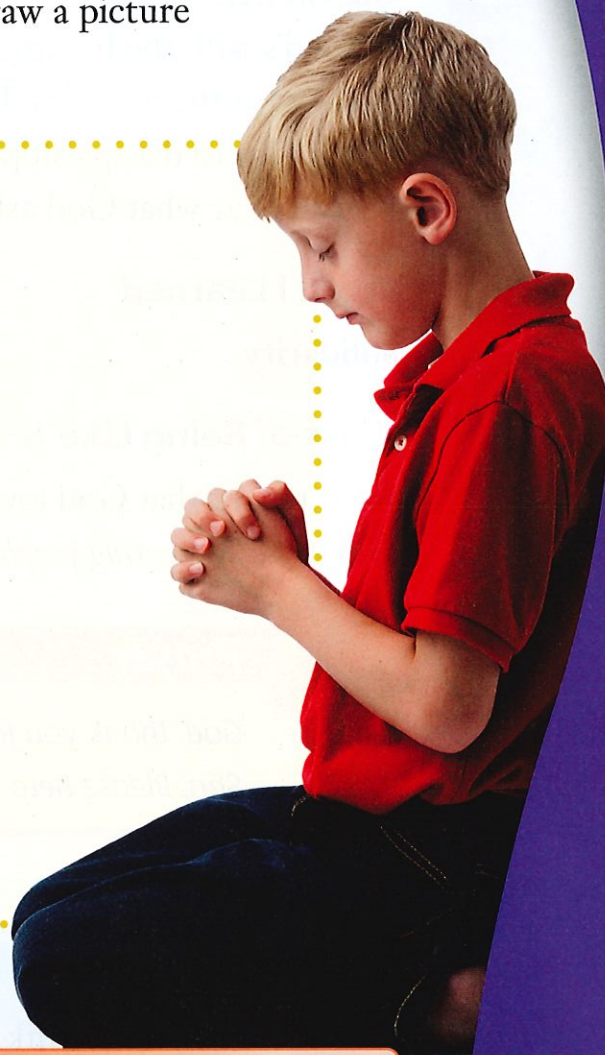


L'Annonciation (The Annunciation), Fra Filippo Lippi, 15th century, oil on panel, Alte Pinakothek, Munich, Germany.

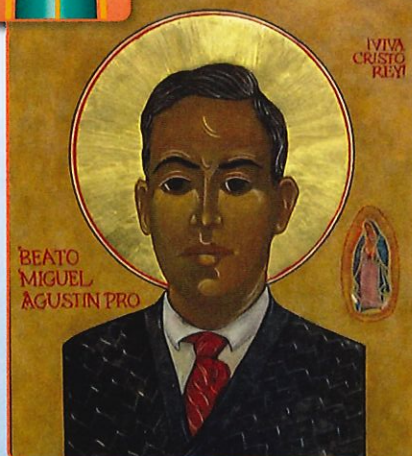


Listening to God

God wants each of us to say yes to him. Prayer is one way for us to hear what God is asking of us. What does God ask of you when you pray? Draw a picture of what you hear God saying to you.



Meet a Holy Person



Blessed Miguel Pro was born in Mexico in 1891 and began studying to be a Jesuit priest when he was 20 years old. In Mexico in the 1920s, Catholics were forbidden to practice their religion, so Miguel left the country. He became a priest in 1925 and returned to Mexico the following year, conducting his ministry in secret.

Faith Summary

God chose Mary to be Jesus' mother. We also call her Mother of God and Mother of the Church. Through her total acceptance of God's will, she became the first and the greatest of the disciples. Like Mary, we are also called to discipleship. Through prayer we can hear what God asks of us.

Word I Learned

solidarity

Ways of Being Like Jesus

Jesus taught that God loves everyone. *Teach others about God's love by treating people with kindness and respect.*



Prayer

God, thank you for asking Mary to be the mother of your Son. Please help us say yes to you just like she did.



With My Family

Activity Think of a way that you can serve the needs of people who are poor. You might choose to participate in a local food drive or collect clothing for a homeless shelter.

Faith on the Go Ask one another: *How can you be like Mary and say yes to God during the next week?*

Family Prayer Pray together the *Salve Regina* each day this week. Encourage one another to say yes to God in all that you do.