

**Adult Confirmation  
Preparation**

**Mary and the Saints**

# Mary



# Why We Love Mary? | Fr. Brice

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fYoX8NB15UA>

## Luke 1:26-56

**Announcement of the Birth of Jesus. 26** In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, **27** to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. **28** And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." **29** But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. **30** Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. **31** Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. **32** He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, **33** and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." **34** But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" **35** And the angel said to her in reply, "The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. **36** And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; **37** for nothing will be impossible for God." **38** Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

**Mary visits Elizabeth. 39** During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, **40** where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. **41** When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, **42** cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. **43** And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? **44** For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. **45** Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

## **The Canticle of Mary. (The Magnificat)**

46 And Mary said:

“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;

47 my spirit rejoices in God my savior.

48

For he has looked upon his handmaid’s lowliness;

    behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed.

49 The Mighty One has done great things for me,

    and holy is his name.

50 His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him.

51 He has shown might with his arm,

    dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart.

52 He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones

    but lifted up the lowly.

53 The hungry he has filled with good things;

    the rich he has sent away empty.

54 He has helped Israel his servant, remembering his mercy,

55 according to his promise to our fathers,

    to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

56 Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

# Who is Mary?

- She is the woman who carried and bore Jesus.
- But she not only carried Jesus. She was his *mother*
- What is a mother? — describe a mother...
- Any mother can tell you that the work only begins in pregnancy.
- She care for him as any mother would -- nursing, caring, when sick, playing with him, teaching him words, etc, comforting him. —> Jesus was a TEENAGER
- As he grew, and when things happened, she didn't doubt. She didn't understand, so she pondered them in her heart. She was a part of God's salvific plan.
- Mary and Joseph were very devout Jews. They had Jesus circumcised, presented him to the Temple for purification, and they went every year to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover. And she raised a very Jewish little boy into a man.

## Who is Mary?

- She is the FIRST DISCIPLE, first believer in Christ, first one to honor and trust him
  - at conception, birth and at the foot of the cross— and at the ascension and in the upper room when the Holy Spirit came
- She was at the crucifixion. It hurt Jesus to know that she would be left without a caretaker. So he entrusted her to John, and John to her. — Has significance for the People of God.
- Mary was also at the ascension. Therefore, she is the only person who is with him from conception to his ascension. (Acts 1:26-27)
- She was a mother to Jesus as our mothers have been to us



# Why Should We Be Devoted to Mary?

- **God honors Mary** Luke 1:28 - Magnificat - read, her response to the miracle of Christ in her
- **Jesus honors her** - wedding feast at Cana - John 2:1-11
- **Disciples honored her.** She was with them at the Ascension, in upper room awaiting the HS, and the Fall of the Holy Spirit(Acts 1:14)
- She was present when he came into the world physically, and when the HS came into the world.
- **The early Christians honored her.** They shared her stories by word of mouth, then they were written. People became devoted to her very early on, and in the catacombs of Rome dating back to 150 BC, people painting pics of Madonna and Child

# Why Should We Be Devoted to Mary?

- She ushered God Incarnate into the world
- She was at his beginning and end on earth:
- At wedding at Cana : ‘Do what he tells you ‘
- At Upper room : she was waiting for the HS to ushered into the world
- She points us to Jesus: a sacrament
- Rosary: Walking through the Life of Jesus with Mary

# Marian Dogmas

**1/ She is considered Mother of God (Theotokos).** Council of Ephesus in 431. After speaking with the Angel Gabriel, she received the Word of God in her heart and in her body, and gave life to the world.

Jesus was both divine and human. She is not the source of his divine nature, but she was the source of his human nature. And Jesus was always God, therefore we can call her the Mother of God.

**2/ Ever-Virgin / Perpetual Virginity** - Mary conceived "without any detriment to her virginity, which remained inviolate even after his birth" (Council of the Lateran, 649).

We consider her to be ever-virgin, because she did not have sexual intercourse to get pregnant with Jesus, and she never had sex after Jesus.

When the Gospels refer to Jesus's brothers and sisters, the same word is used for 'cousin'.

If she had other children, there would have been no reason for Jesus to commit her to John's care at the cross (John 19:25-27)

# Marian Dogmas

## **3/ Immaculate Conception: 1854, Pope Pius IX, *ex cathedra***

the sin that passed from Adam and Eve did not affect Mary. And throughout her life, she chose not to sin. She was devoted to God. Sin separates us from God; Mary never sinned, and therefore never experienced that separation. She was willing to live a life for God, doing whatever he requested of her.

## **4/ Assumption 1950 Pope Pius XII, *ex cathedra***

Mary lived a pure life for God. The event passed down to us is that she did not die but was assumed into heaven, body and soul.. God assumed her -- as Pope Pius XII said, “she was taken up body and soul into heaven.”

Therefore, neither sin nor the corruption of death was to touch her body or soul.

She is queen in heaven.

As Jesus’ resurrection gives us hope, so does Mary’s assumption become a sign of hope for us that we will rise to new life in Jesus.

We look to that hope, to be in heaven with God.

# MARY TO THE CHURCH:

- At the foot of the cross, Jesus looked at her with compassion. She was there and John was there. He said, “Woman, here is your son” and to John, “Here is your mother.” (John 19:26-27)
- He was telling her she is the mother of all Christians, and all Christians are to recognize her as their Mother.
- She continues to care for us in heaven as she makes intercessions for us.

## *Some* MARIAN APPARITIONS

- From time to time, we may hear that Mary has appeared to someone.
- She has indeed appeared to many throughout the ages - NOT DOGMAS
- Church does not require that anyone believes these apparitions, but the know that in many cases these apparitions were verified by more than one person and/or by a miracle

**Our Lady of Fatima**, Portugal- 3 shepherd children, Lucia don Santos, age 10; and her cousins Francisco and Jacina Marto, 9 and 7. Fatima was a small village about 70 miles north of Lisbon

**Our Lady of Lourdes** - Bernadette Soubirous - age 14, cave, pray the rosary - 17 times

**Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal** - Catherine Labouré in France

**Our Lady of Guadalupe** - Guadalupe, Mexico (1531)  
- Patroness of the Americas

**SAINTS**

# Why Ask Saints for Prayer? | Fr. Brice Higginbotham

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zYRSv-LtrH8>



## Hebrews 11— Hall of Faith

Hebrews 12:1-2 —

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith....”

# RECOGNITION BY CHURCH AS A SAINT

Initially saints were recognized if a large number of people agreed to it, but sometimes some of the stories of these allegedly great people were exaggerated.

By the 10th C, bishops and pope took over the authority of approving saints. The process is called: **canonization**.

The process begins **after** the death of a Catholic thought to be holy.

- His/her life was examined
- Look for evidence of miracles after his/her death - as a proof he/she is in heaven
- \*\*\*What we do on earth does not make a person a saint; God does that. we are only recognizing what God has already done. And just because we did not recognize someone on earth, doesn't mean God has not made them a saint.

\*\*\*Before a person can be considered for sainthood, he/she must have been dead for at least 5 years. (Pope John Paul II waived this requirement in Mother Teresa's case.) <http://www.catholicdoors.com/faq/qu221.htm>

Process: 1/ Servant of God—-> 2 /Venerable —-> 3/Blessed —-> 4/Canonized

**First Step:** When the subject arises that a person should be considered for Sainthood, a Bishop is placed in charge of the initial investigation of the person's life. If it is determined that the candidate is deemed worthy of further consideration, the Vatican grants a "Nihil Obstat." This is a Latin phrase that means "nothing hinders." Henceforth, the candidate is called a "Servant of God."

**Second Step:** The Church Official, a Postulator, who coordinates the process and serves as an advocate, must prove that the candidate lived heroic virtues. This is achieved through the collection of documents and testimonies that are collected and presented to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in Rome. When a candidate is approved, he/she earns the title of "Venerable."

**Third Step:** To be beatified and recognized as a "Blessed," one miracle acquired through the candidate's intercession is required in addition to recognition of heroic virtue (or martyrdom in the case of a martyr).

**Fourth Step:** Canonization requires a second miracle after beatification, though a Pope may waive these requirements. (A miracle is not required prior to a martyr's beatification, but one is required before his/her canonization.) Once this second miracle has been received through the candidate's intercession, the Pope declares the person a "Saint." We don't worship saints, they are in heaven, close to God, therefore they can be intercessors for us.

# ***An Italian Teenager Could Become the First Millennial Saint***

Carlo Acutis, who died at 15 in 2006 and was an early adopter of the internet, was beatified over the weekend, putting him on the path to sainthood in the Catholic Church.



St. Faustina Kowalska

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?  
v=SAv4CeyU4Ao](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SAv4CeyU4Ao)

In order to become a saint...

- one simply has to desire to  
be a saint

# **Name Changes in the Bible**



- Abram → Abraham
- Jacob → Israel
- Simon → Peter
- Saul → Paul



# Saint Name



➤ Anjezë Gonxhe Bojaxhiu

➤ →

➤ Mother Teresa of Calcutta

# Saint Name



- Internal conversion /metamorphosis
- Choose a name of a saint you admire and/or would like to imitate in faith and character

On Webpage:

Videos: How to Make A Good Confession

Part 1 and Part 2