

MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD

MARIAN FEAST DAY

MARY'S STORY OF THE MONTH

THE ARCHANGEL GABRIEL appeared to a young Jewish girl named Mary and announced to her that she would bear a son, and that He would be the Son of God. She was frightened. She didn't know how she could have a son without being married and knowing a man. It was impossible. The angel told her that the Holy Spirit would overshadow her, and that she would become pregnant and give birth to a baby boy. Mary said yes because it was God's will. Because of her yes, she became the mother of Jesus. Jesus is God, so Mary became the mother of God.

After Jesus was born, she fed Him, hugged him, clothed Him, held Him close to her heart. She helped Him take His first steps and picked Him up when He fell. When Jesus hurt Himself she cried, and when He smiled she laughed.

As Jesus grew up Mary watched over Him, keeping everything that He said in her heart. She knew that someday He would have to leave her and Joseph and do His Father's work. One day when Jesus was 30, Mary went with Him to a wedding. It was a long, huge, and happy party and the bride and groom ran out of wine.

Mary said to Jesus, "They have no wine."

Jesus told her, "Woman. ... My hour has not yet come."

But Mary knew that if she asked, Jesus would help the couple. She said to the servers, "Do whatever He tells you."

Jesus instructed the servers to fill 12 stone jars to the brim with water and take them to the head waiter to taste. The head waiter tasted the water. It had turned into the best wine of the party! No one knew where the wine had come from except the servers who had filled the stone jars. This was Jesus' first miracle, and He performed it because His mother asked Him to. Now it was time for Him to start preaching about the Kingdom of God.

For three years Jesus preached the Good News of how much the Father loves us. But then the Jews arrested Him and the Romans crucified Him. Almost all His friends abandoned Him, but His mother, Mary, and John, the beloved disciple,



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stayed with Him. Mary watched her son hang on the Cross. She felt His immense suffering, and her heart was in so much pain that she thought she might die too. But she knew that Jesus had to do what He had come on earth to do, which was to save us from death and sin. Jesus spoke to Mary from the Cross, “Woman, behold, your son,” and to John He said, “Behold, your mother.” Jesus gave Mary to John to

be his mother. With the same breath he made Mary our mother, too!

We can turn to Mary and bring to her our troubles, and just like at the Cana wedding, she asks Jesus to help us. He listens to her the way He listened during His first miracle. More than anything, Mary wants us to love her son, Jesus! The feast day of Mary the Mother of God is celebrated on January 1.



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