

Lesson Plan, Grade 8 - Chapter 20

Catechist Background

Doctrinal Content

- Mary lived a life of faithful obedience to God. She said "yes" to God and became the Mother of his Son and of all those who believe in him. (CCC, 148, 149, 964)
- The Catholic Church teaches that, at the end of her life, Mary, body and soul, was "taken up" (assumed) into Heaven. (CCC, 966)
- The Church honors Mary as the preeminent member of the Communion of Saints and honors her with many feast days and devotions. (CCC, 1195)
- Saints are role models for us. We are all called to be Saints and to accept God's friendship, which leads us to a life of service. (CCC, 828)

Catechist Background

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ... Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Thus they persecute the prophets who were before you."—Matthew 5:3, 9-12

Reflect In what ways are you blessed?

Having heroes, heroines, and role models are an important part of the human experience. We can learn from the positive example of those older and more experienced than ourselves, and of those who have gone before us. It is helpful to see that there are people in this world who face the same sort of challenges we face, and even greater ones, and who not only survive but excel. We need to listen to those who say, by the virtue of their choices, that we do not need to settle for mediocrity in life. Examples of excellence give us the courage to raise the bar when it comes to our expectations of our own behavior.

The Saints are such examples. They were ordinary people who, because they trusted in God and dared to believe in his promise, were able to do extraordinary things. Far from being the unapproachable, other-worldly figures we sometimes imagine them to be, the Saints were actually not that different from us. They laughed, they cried, and they lived good lives, but they were also tempted by sin. We honor the Saints and celebrate many of their feast days because they lived lives of holiness, seeking always to grow in deeper union with God through Jesus. Their examples help us to know that we can come to know, love, and serve our God in little acts of love and through great sacrifice. They give us hope, courage, and inspiration.

Reflect What virtues of saintliness do you see in your own life that you can nurture and celebrate?

Catechist's Prayer

Lord of Life and Goodness, give me the wisdom to see myself as saintly and the courage to become saintly. Grant me the humility to allow your Spirit to use me as an instrument of service in the lives of all I meet. Amen.

Sharing the Message

How Eighth-Graders Understand Chapter Topics

Eighth-graders may have a tendency to view Saints as people who had some sort of predisposition to spiritual perfection that they can never achieve. They look for role models, often finding them in the wrong places—such as popular actors, athletes, and musicians who may not always be good examples. Young people may sometimes have difficulty relating to the Saints unless they understand that these were real people like them who also struggled at times with doing what was right.

Teaching Tip

Discuss a few of the Saints whose imperfections are well known (e.g., the impulsiveness of Saint Peter or the initial immaturity of Saint Therese). Talk about how these Saints, though imperfect, were able through the grace of God to rise above their limitations and live lives of heroic virtue.

Sharing the Message with Eighth-Graders

Some adolescents are attracted to rebellious personalities. They need to be taught that positive resistance is a response to injustice, whereas rebellion is often a response to the pursuit of one's own pleasures and ego.

- People who are perceived as heroes to eighth-graders are often those who seem to listen to their problems and concerns, those who are sympathetic to their struggles and anxieties.
- Help the young people to understand that living successful lives as Christians does not mean we never fail. It means we ask forgiveness for our sins and failings and learn and grow from them.

Chapter Connections

Tasks of Catechesis

Helping children grow in a faith that is "known, celebrated, lived, and expressed in prayer" (NDC, 20). This chapter focuses on the following tasks of catechesis:

- Promoting Knowledge of the Faith
- Education for Community Life

NCEA IFG: ACRE Edition**Knowledge of the Faith**

- Objective: To know and understand basic Catholic teaching about the Incarnate Word Jesus Christ as the way, truth, and life

Communal Life

- Objectives: To know the origin, mission, structure, and communal nature of the Church; to know the rights and responsibilities of the Christian faithful

Catholic Faith Literacy

Assumption, Hail Mary, Immaculate Conception, Rosary, miracle

Catholic Social Teaching

To integrate Catholic Social Teaching into your lesson, choose one of the following features: Rights and Responsibilities of the Human Person, pages 338–339; or Option for the Poor and Vulnerable, pages 340–341.

- Start the Live step of the process by talking about Blessed Mariam Theresia Chiramel Mankidiyan on page 312. Then move directly to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Or, to expand the lesson, complete page 312, then move to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Return to Chapter 20 for the prayer on page 313.

► Music Option

Use the following song to enhance catechetical learning or for prayer.

- "Be with Us, Mary," Live, Page 313

Catechist Instruction, Grade 8 – Chapter 20

Invite Page 303

Objective

- Reflect on God's personal invitation through Scripture

♥ Let Us Pray

Invite the youth to gather in the prayer space. Have them make the Sign of the Cross. Invite a volunteer to take the role of Leader, praying the first lines as well as the Psalm verses. Lead the rest of the group in the group response.

Have the youth move out of the prayer space and back to their seats. Explain that we look to the Saints as ordinary people "seeking the face of God" every day of their lives.

Say: Let's listen to God's Word and hear how the Beatitudes describe the attitudes and actions that all disciples should follow.

† Scripture

Guide the youth through the process of Scripture reflection.

Invite the young people to be still, close their eyes, and focus on their breathing.

Encourage them to open their minds and hearts to what God is saying to them.

- Proclaim the Scripture and have the youth sit in silence.
- Ask: What did you hear God say to you today?
- Allow volunteers to share.

► You may play instrumental music to begin the reflection.

Remember, this is a spiritual discipline that takes practice. The young people will grow in their capacity to sit in silence. Throughout the year, build to four minutes.

Have you ever thought...

Say: The Church honors Mary as the greatest of Saints with many feast days and devotions.

- Invite the young people to respond to the questions.

Discover (1) Pages 306-307

Objectives

- Recognize that Mary lived a life of faithful obedience to God
- Identify Mary's Assumption as the Church's teaching that, at the end of her life, Mary (body and soul) was "taken up" (assumed) into Heaven

Read aloud the question and elicit responses from the group. Have a volunteer record responses on the board or on chart paper.

Mary's Special Place in God's Plan

Invite a volunteer to read the first paragraph of this section as an introduction to Mary's special place in God's plan. Ask the young people why Mary might be a heroine.

† Scripture

Ask the youth to draw their own face looking afraid (fear), confused (pondered), and upset (greatly troubled).

- Say: Now close your eyes and, remembering that Mary is a girl about your age, imagine her face as she first encounters the angel.
- Proclaim the Scripture.

† Scripture Background

The Annunciation and Visitation

In Luke 1:26–45, we learn of God's plan to save us through the miracle of Jesus taking on human flesh. Through the Angel Gabriel, God is telling Mary his plan for her life and for the salvation of us all.

- During the Annunciation, Mary questions the angel but does not doubt God's word; she willingly assents to God's plan.
- Many parallels between Jesus and John the Baptist are drawn, including the fact that Gabriel announced the birth of both; the mothers are related; and John's recognition, even before he is born, of the presence of Jesus. In addition, both of their mothers praise God for the wonder in their lives.

Humble, Yet Honored

As you work through the text on pages 306 and 307, have a volunteer make a list on the board or on chart paper of the difficulties Mary faced as Jesus' mother.

- Point out that Mary accepts the challenges and works through them, always trusting that God will turn darkness into light.
- Ask the young people to share what joys were brought into Mary's life because of Jesus.
- Summarize Mary's life and its meaning for us by reading aloud the last paragraph in this section.

Activity

Allow the youth time to read and reflect on the activity.

- Invite volunteers to share one of their three answers.

Quick Review

Mary's "yes" allowed God's will to be done through her. It was a "yes" she would have to repeat many times as she lived out her promise. Because Mary was completely open to God's grace, she was without sin. At her death, she was assumed body and soul into Heaven.

Discover (2) Pages 308-309

Objectives

- Explore the many feast days and popular devotions that honor Mary

Teaching Activity: Mary, Our Mother

As a group, participants will play a game to match the descriptions of feasts of Mary to their correct titles to help them understand how important Mary is to the Church and her role in our salvation.

Before the Lesson

Materials Needed

✦ Go to aliveinchrist.osv.com and download Feasts of Mary Matching Game, Catholic Faith Words
scissors, tape

Preparation

- Print out the Feasts of Mary Matching Game and cut out the titles of the feast days into strips. Post the strips on the board or wall.
- Search for images online that represent some of the feast days, print them out, and post them next to the title of the feast they represent.

Activity Directions

Say: It seems to be a common experience for many of us that when we are hurt, sick, or sad, we want our "mommies." There is a special bond between a mother and child. Jesus had that same relationship with his Mother. Mary loved her Son as all mothers love their children. We honor Mary in our Catholic Church for her singular and remarkable place in the Communion of Saints. Mary's life is a continuing inspiration to our faith. The more we learn about and get closer to Mary, the stronger our faith in Jesus becomes. Jesus shares his Mother with us. She is our Mother, too. The Church honors her with three holy days of obligation. Throughout our history people have expressed their love for Mary by honoring her with many devotions.

Post the Catholic Faith Word *devotions* on the board or wall and ask the group to read it aloud together.

Say: The rosary is a devotion that you've learned as part of your faith journey. The Mysteries of the Rosary help us focus on events in the lives of Jesus and Mary and apply them to the challenges and good times in our lives.

We remember Mary in a special way during the months of October and May. You may have participated in a May Crowning—a ceremony where we place a crown of flowers on the head of a statue of Mary. There are special forms of prayer called novenas that ask Mary to pray with us. These novenas are often dedicated to a particular title of Mary.

Say: To help us to understand how important Mary is to us the Church emphasizes her role in our salvation by dedicating sixteen different feast days in her honor. For instance, December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. On that day the Church celebrates the special care God took by creating Mary free from Original Sin.

Post the Catholic Faith Word *Immaculate Conception* on the board or wall and read the definition aloud to the group.

Say: Let's see how good you are at determining which of the feasts of Mary you see on the wall is being described by a friend.

Hand out summaries of the feasts to the participants. Ask for volunteers to read the description of a feast and ask the group to find the corresponding title of that feast from the strips you have posted on the board or wall.

Say: Isn't it wonderful that we have two mothers? It's important for you to know that you can go to Mary when you are sad, sick, or hurt and let her comfort you and bring you to her Son!

Extend the Lesson

Use **Activity Master 20: Mary's Feast** to extend the lesson; it is not included in the timed estimate for this section of the Lesson Plan.

Discover (3) Pages 310-311

Objectives

- Recognize that Saints are role models for us
- Identify canonization as the process of becoming officially recognized as a Saint in the Church

Read aloud the question and elicit responses from the group. Have a volunteer record responses on the board or on chart paper.

The Church of Saints

Remind the group that a martyr is a person who lays down his or her life for the faith. Have the young people silently read the story of Raymond or Maximilian Kolbe's life and death.

- Ask: How do you think Maximilian found the courage to give up his life?
- Invite volunteers to share their thoughts.

† Go to the Source

Invite a volunteer to read John 15:12–13; afterwards, discuss the kind of love Jesus expects from us and some sacrifices we can make for people we love.

† Scripture Background

John 15:12–13

This Scripture passage, which comes from a conversation that takes place during the Last Supper, helps us to understand the relationship between knowing the depth of God's love for us, loving him in return, and loving our neighbor.

- On Good Friday Jesus showed the depth of his love on the Cross.
- We can be a part of the "greatest love of all" if we open ourselves to the gift of Christ's love and love others in his name.

Work with Words

Direct the youth's attention to the Catholic Faith Words box.

- Explain that both terms are related to the process in which the Church declares someone a Saint.
- Ask two volunteers to read aloud the vocabulary words and their definitions. • Have the young people circle the highlighted words in the text.

Role Models

Review the text in this section with the group.

- Ask why the Church honors Saints by celebrating feast days. ***Possible responses: to help us remember their stories, to show us and remind us how to live lives of holiness***

The Road to Sainthood

- Read aloud the last paragraph.

Activity

Have a volunteer read aloud the activity text.

- Encourage the group to discuss.

In Summary

Review the Catholics Believe summary points with the group.

- Allow time for the youth to reflect on some of the Saints who have made great sacrifices for their faith.

Live Pages 312-313

Objectives

- Discuss sainthood
- Explore the faith life of Blessed Mariam Thresia Chiramel Mankidiyan
- Offer the Litany of Mary prayer

Our Catholic Life

Have a volunteer read aloud the paragraph.

- Discuss, as a group, the qualities that can help to make someone a Saint.
- Invite the youth to reflect on the question.

People of Faith

Explain to the young people that Blessed Mariam Thresia Chiramel Mankidiyan ministered to the poor and sick. • Read aloud the People of Faith paragraph.

- Review with the group the extra information in the People of Faith Background box.
- Invite the youth to pray the first joyful mystery of the Rosary in honor of Mary's Annunciation.

Here are some additional details about Blessed Mariam Thresia Chiramel Mankidiyan to assist you in presenting this section:

- Blessed Mariam grew up with a strong devotion to God, fasting four times a week and praying the Marian Rosary several times a day.
- By the time she was fifteen, she began helping the poor, nursing the sick, and comforting the lonely people of her parish.

Activity

Explain the activity to the group.

- Allow time for the youth to flip through their books and pick People of Faith to write about.

Litany of Mary

♥ Assign three volunteers to be leaders and divide up the copy among them. Give them time to read over their parts.

- Gather the young people around the prayer table with the leaders standing in front of the group.
- Indicate to the leaders when it is time to begin. Follow the order of prayer on the prayer page.

► Conclude by singing with the young people or playing the song "Be with Us, Mary," downloaded from **aliveinchrist.osv.com**.

Chapter Review

If you are using eAssessments, remind the young people that they will need to be completed by the due date. Feedback is important at this age. For the tool to be used effectively provide feedback to the young people about their work.

Chapter 20 Lesson Plan

Objectives	Process	Materials
Invite, 15 minutes		
Examples for Living Page 303	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psalm 24:3, 4, 5–6 Pray the opening prayer. Matthew 5:2–12 Guide the youth through the process of Scripture reflection. • Discuss Have You Ever Thought questions. 	
Discover, 45 minutes		
Mary's Special Place in God's Plan Pages 306–307 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize that Mary lived a life of faithful obedience to God • Identify Mary's Assumption as the Church's teaching that, at the end of her life, Mary (body and soul) was "taken up" (assumed) into Heaven 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about Mary's special role in God's plan. Read Luke 1:26–38 and Luke 1:39–45. • Activity Young people will list times they've made a big commitment. 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> board or chart paper
The Greatest of Saints Pages 308–309 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the many feast days and popular devotions that honor Mary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching Activity Participants will match the descriptions of a feast of Mary to the title of that feast to help them understand how important Mary is to the Church and her role in our salvation. • Activity Master Mary's Feasts 	Feasts of Mary, Catholic Faith Words, Activity Master 20 <input type="checkbox"/> scissors, tape
The Church of Saints Pages 310–311 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize that Saints are role models for us • Identify canonization as the process of becoming officially recognized as a Saint in the Church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss how we are called to be Saints and live lives of service to others. Read John 15:12–13. • Activity Youth will write ways that the Church, living and in Heaven, challenges and supports them. 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> board or chart paper
Live, 15 minutes		
Our Catholic Life Page 312	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the Our Catholic Life question. • People of Faith Learn about Blessed Mariam Theresia Chiramel Mankidiyan. • Activity Identify People of Faith who lived lives of heroic virtue. 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens
Litany of Mary Page 313	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assign three leaders. • Follow the order of prayer. 	"Be with Us Mary"

CATHOLIC FAITH WORDS

Assumption, devotions, Immaculate Conception, canonization, beatification

ASSESSMENT

Chapter Review, Page 314

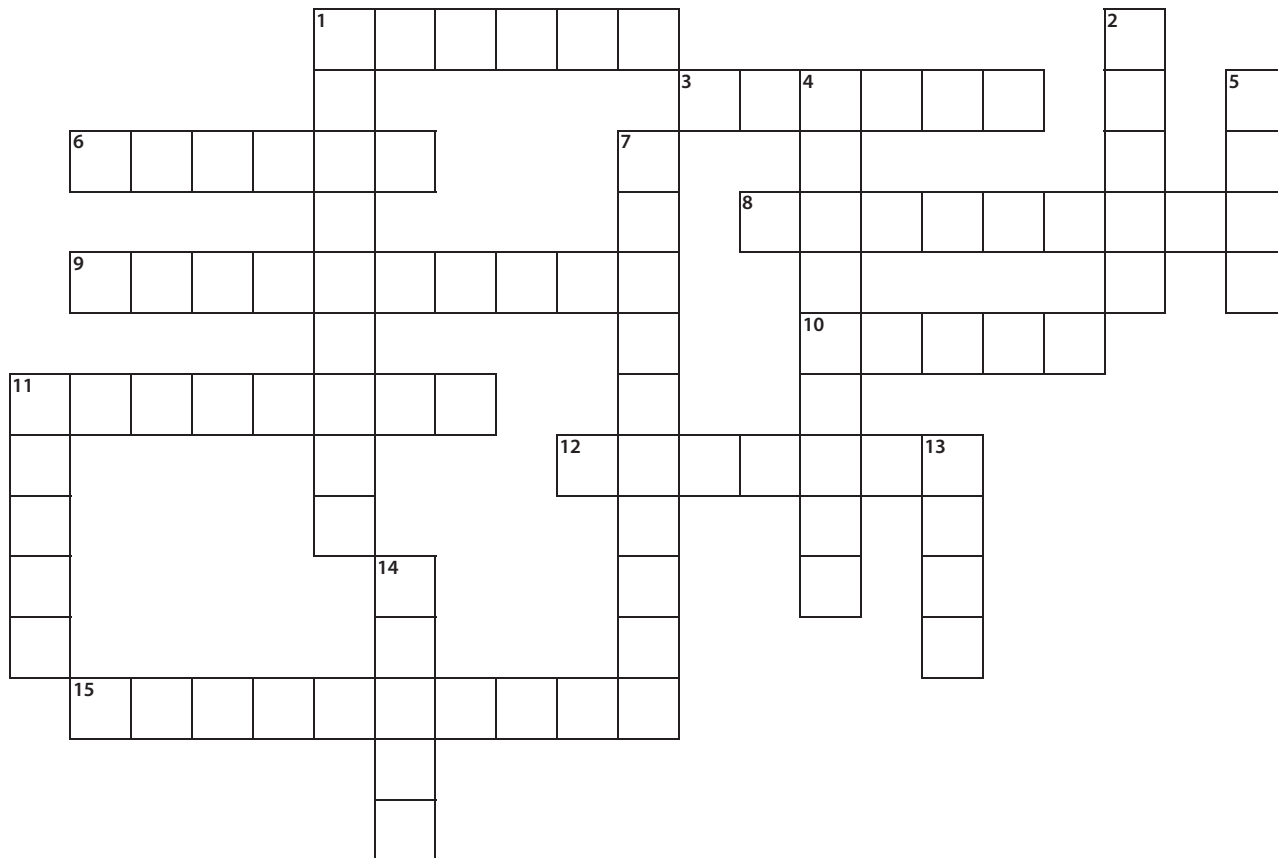
[aliveinchrist.osv.com](https://www.aliveinchrist.osv.com) Customize and Download Assessments, Interactive Reviews, eAssessments

Name _____

Date _____

Mary's Feasts

Complete the puzzle below using the material you learned in this chapter.



Across

1. Mary is our ____.
3. Form of prayer that makes use of beads
6. Month with feast of Assumption
8. Mary's cousin
9. The Immaculate ____
10. Month of Annunciation feast
11. A special prayer or way of honoring
12. Messenger at the Annunciation
15. Three Holy Days of ____ honor Mary.

Down

1. Contained in the Rosary
2. Mary was visited by a(n) ____.
4. ____ of Mary on January 1
5. Son born to Elizabeth
7. Mary was God's ____.
11. Now and at the hour of our ____
13. Gospel containing Mary stories
14. Special day

Name _____

Date _____

Match each description in Column A with the correct term in Column B.

Column A

Column B

- ___ 1. The Angel Gabriel's visit to Mary
- ___ 2. Mary's body and soul were taken up to Heaven by God
- ___ 3. Prayers and practices that honor Jesus, Mary, and the Saints
- ___ 4. Special visions of Jesus, Mary, or the Saints
- ___ 5. The process by which the Pope declares someone a Saint

- a. devotions
- b. Annunciation
- c. canonization
- d. Assumption
- e. apparitions

Indicate whether the following statements are true or false. Then rewrite false statements to make them true.

6. The Rosary is made up of twenty mysteries that help us focus on the wonders of creation.

True/False

7. The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is a Holy Day of Obligation on which we honor Mary.

True/False

8. Angels once lived on Earth and have been declared by the Church to be in Heaven. True/False

9. Although he lived a holy life, Saint Maximilian Kolbe is best known for his heroic death. True/False

Write a response on the lines below.

10. What are some qualities and actions that make a person a good candidate for canonization?

Feasts of Mary

January 1: Mary, Mother of God	On this feast and holy day of obligation, we honor Mary as the Mother of God. When Mary said “yes” to God’s invitation, she accepted an extraordinary and unique role in God’s plan for salvation.
February 2: The Presentation of the Lord	On this feast day we remember that Mary and Joseph brought the infant Jesus to the Temple to offer him to the Lord.
February 11: Our Lady of Lourdes	On this day we remember the first of Mary’s 18 appearances to Bernadette Soubirous near the town of Lourdes, France. Special visions or appearances of Jesus, Mary, or the Saints are known as apparitions. Lourdes has become a place of healing and peace for many disciples of Christ.
March 25: The Annunciation of the Lord	This is the oldest feast day to honor Mary and happens nine months before Christmas. It marks the day when the Angel Gabriel visited Mary to tell her she would be the Mother of God.
May 31: The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth	This feast celebrates the day that Mary came to stay with her cousin Elizabeth and help care for her during her last months of being pregnant.
July 16: Our Lady of Mount Carmel	On this feast the Church recalls a community of men and women who have a great devotion to Mary because she is the perfect model of prayer and contemplation—a model of virtue. She is the one who points all Christians to Christ.

August 5: The Dedication of the Basilica of Saint Mary Major	This feast celebrates the largest church in the world, which was dedicated to Mary in Rome in 431. You can still visit this Church today.
August 15: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven	This feast celebrates Jesus' love for his Mother, which was so great that he raised Mary, body and soul, into Heaven. This holy day of obligation helps us to remember that because of God's love for us, we, too, have the chance to live body and soul forever with him in eternity if we choose to. We too can live like Mary—completely obedient to God's will.
August 22: The Queenship of the Virgin Mary	This feast day emphasizes the primary place of Mary in our lives. In Poland, Mary is considered the Queen as they have had many kings but their wives were never referred to as queens. Mary is Queen on Earth and in Heaven. Wherever people live by Mary's example, they treat others with dignity and respect.
September 8: The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	This feast celebrates Mary's birthday. While we do not know the actual date, the Church chose this date to honor her coming into the world. At a very young age Mary would become the instrument of God's plan.
September 15: Our Lady of Sorrows	Because September 14 is the feast of the Holy Cross, this day remembers Mary's suffering as she watched her Son offer his life for us.
October 7: Our Lady of the Rosary	This feast day calls to mind the close connection between the rosary and Mary. Catholics pray the rosary to reflect on the life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus in the Mysteries by repeating words of the Hail Mary.

November 21: The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Tradition tells us that Ann and Joachim were the names of Mary's parents. This feast celebrates a story passed on in the Church that her parents offered her to God in the Temple when she was a very young girl.
December 8: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	This feast day is a holy day of obligation in the United States. We celebrate that Mary was full of grace from the moment of her conception. Mary was born without Original Sin and never committed a sin throughout her entire life. Mary is the patron Saint of the United States.
December 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe	The feast celebrates the appearance of Mary to Juan Diego, an Aztec Indian, in his village near Mexico City. In religious art Our Lady is depicted with Aztec features as she appeared inside Juan Diego's cloak when he did as Mary directed and went to the bishop to confirm the apparitions.

Catholic Faith Words

devotions popular prayers and practices that honor Jesus, Mary, and the Saints.

Catholic Faith Words

Immaculate Conception the truth that Mary was preserved free from Original Sin from the moment of her conception. The Church celebrates the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8.