

TALKING ABOUT ORDINARY TIME >>>

Feasts of Mary and the Saints occur all during the Church year. The celebration of Mary's birthday on September 8th comes in Ordinary Time. Ordinary Time is the longest of all the Church seasons. In celebrating Mary's birthday, the Church gives expression to her birth as a special moment in salvation history. She would give birth to Jesus, the Savior. She is the Mother of God. By celebrating Mary's birthday, we rejoice that she was open to God's invitation to become the Mother of Jesus.

God's Word



Read **Luke 1:46-56**, the Magnificat of Mary. It is one of the choices for the responsorial psalms sung or recited at a Mass honoring Mary.

HELPING YOUR CHILD UNDERSTAND >>>

Mary

- Most children at this level have great affection for Mary as Jesus' Mother.
- At this grade children should be familiar with the Hail Mary but need help with the words (see page 635).
- Your child will be able to identify with Mary's response of "yes" to what God asked of her.



CATHOLIC FAMILY CUSTOMS >>>

Mary's Birth One of the ways to celebrate the birth of Mary is to honor mothers you know. It is also a perfect time to talk about life as a gift. You can talk about why it is important to celebrate life at birthdays and why as Catholics we care for every form of life, including all of creation.

Talk about the many "mothers" who have helped you in your life. Include your own mother and grandmother as well as aunts, mothers of friends, and others.

Brainstorm what special thing each of you can do to honor one of the mothers you have talked about. Possibilities might be to bring her flowers, write a note, draw a picture for her, or pray for her.

FAMILY PRAYER >>>



Pray this prayer of trust in Mary together during the month of September.

Mary, Mother of Jesus and my Mother, too, help me to say "yes" to God every day. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to aliveinchrist.osv.com.