

TALKING ABOUT ADVENT >>>

Mary, the Mother of God, is a prominent figure in the Advent season. During the Sundays of Advent we hear the stories of the Annunciation. The Angel Gabriel tells Mary she is to be the Mother of God's only Son. We also hear about Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth when she sings her song of praise and thanks in the *Magnificat*. In these four weeks, the Church also celebrates two very special feasts of Mary. December 8 is the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. This feast honors Mary because she was born without Original Sin. It is a holy day of obligation. December 12 is the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Pope Saint John Paul II named Our Lady of Guadalupe the Patroness of the Americas. It is a holy day in the United States.

God's Word



Read **Luke 1:26-38**, the story of the Annunciation and Mary's response to serve God.

HELPING YOUR CHILD UNDERSTAND >>>

Mary

- Most children this age will easily identify with Mary as a Mother and attribute to her the characteristics of a good mother.
- Usually they will accept without analysis that Mary is the Mother of the human Jesus and so the Mother of God.
- As a rule, they will be intrigued with different art forms of Mary.



FEASTS OF THE SEASON >>>

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary

December 8

This feast honors Mary because she was born without Original Sin. It is a holy day of obligation. One of the cherished Sacramentals of Catholic devotion to Mary is the Miraculous Medal. The medal was described to Saint Catherine Laboure during an apparition of Mary. Inscribed on the medal are the words: "O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee."

FAMILY PRAYER >>>



O God of power and mercy, you blessed the Americas with the presence of the Virgin Mary of Guadalupe. May her prayers help all people everywhere to accept each other as brothers and sisters. Through your justice present in our hearts, may your peace reign in our family, our neighborhood and the world.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen.



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