

# **Our Lady of the Valley Religious Education**

## **May 2025 Activity Packet**

### **Grades Pre-K-2**



**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_



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Jesus Crowns Mary the Queen of Heaven

## May 2025 Overview: Grades Pre-K-2

**Theme:** Month of the Blessed Virgin Mary; Month of the Queenship of Our Lady

**Marian Titles:** Our Lady, Queen of Heaven; Mother Most Pure

**Monthly Prayer/Invocation:** Our Lady, Queen of Heaven, pray for us. Mother Most Pure, pray for us. Regina caeli, ora pro nobis. Mater purissima, ora pro nobis.

### Thematic Guiding Questions, Pre-K-2:

- ♥ Who is the Blessed Virgin Mary?
- ♥ Why do we honor the Blessed Virgin Mary in our faith?
- ♥ When you think of Mother Mary, what do you think of?
- ♥ What is Mother Mary like, and how can we be more like Her?

**Saint of the Month:** The English Carmelite monk **St. Simon Stock** was given the brown scapular by Our Lady of Mount Carmel so that he could help to save many souls through devotion to Mother Mary. His hymn of praise to Our Lady, “Flos Carmeli,” describes her beautiful soul, filled with every grace and virtue.

**Monthly Challenge:** Research scapular devotions. Choose a scapular you would like to learn about, such as the purple scapular of St. Joseph, or the blue scapular of the Immaculate Conception. Identify which religious community the scapular is associated with, and pray for that community. You might also choose your own scapular to wear, and ask a priest to enroll you in it so that you may open yourself to receiving special graces. As a family, say the brown scapular prayer together: “I love Thee, O most precious Sacred and Immaculate Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Please guide me.”

**Overall Learning Goals:** Our goal this month is to explore what it means to be kind, learning from the examples of Jesus and Mary. We will identify how we can be kind, honoring Jesus and Mary in the things we do for God and others.

**Summary of Activities:** May is a special month that is dedicated to Mother Mary, so our activities this month will have a Marian focus. Our activities will engage with the concept of Mary’s kindness through art as we look at common symbols of Mother Mary’s holiness and kindness, such as flowers. We will learn about Church traditions to honor Our Lady, reflecting on how we, as children of God made in His image, can be kind as Mother Mary is, in our own unique ways. May’s activities will also highlight apparitions of Mary in history, looking at how She has shown Her kindness to people around the world throughout the ages, as well as how She has pointed people back to Jesus through prayer and the Mass.

### Additional Enrichment Ideas:

- ∞ Create your own outdoor home Mary garden. Plant flower seeds in clay pots that you can place around a Mary statue. Choose your favorite flowers that remind you of Mary. Visit your Mary garden to pray.
- ∞ Honor Mother Mary in a special way this month. Read a book or watch a video about Mother Mary's apparition to the children of Fatima. Make a small indoor shrine at home with holy cards, a statue, and flowers that remind you of Mother Mary, like roses, or come to say a prayer by the Mary grotto at our parish. Make the sign of the Cross when you visit the statue at the Mary shrine. See the Marian prayers in our prayer compendium for additional ideas about how to honor Mother Mary in prayer
- ∞ The World Day of Prayer for Vocations is on May 11. Pray together as a family for more men and women religious in our Church, and for everyone to discover where God is calling them to use their talents
- ∞ Crown your Mary statue with flowers, or your own crown that you have made
- ∞ When you crown Mary, sing a song for Her. Some popular Marian songs are "Salve Regina" ("Hail, Holy Queen"), "Immaculate Mary" ("The Lourdes Hymn"), "Ave Maria" ("Hail, Mary"), "O Sanctissima" ("O Most Holy"), and "Bring Flowers of the Rarest" ("Queen of the May"). You can find a compilation of these songs here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rbbZjFm1P-g>
- ∞ Sign up for daily emails from Aleteia with Scripture verses to focus on each day. These can be used in prayer at the start or end of the day: (<https://cdn.forms-content.sg-form.com/4a69ede7-d3a2-11ed-8377-fe995a783794>)
- ∞ First Holy Communion: make a memory page (included in this packet) for a scrapbook. You could put together a special sacrament scrapbook to keep memories from every family member's sacraments. Bring the scrapbook out to share your memories, talking about how you celebrated the sacraments to compare traditions over the years

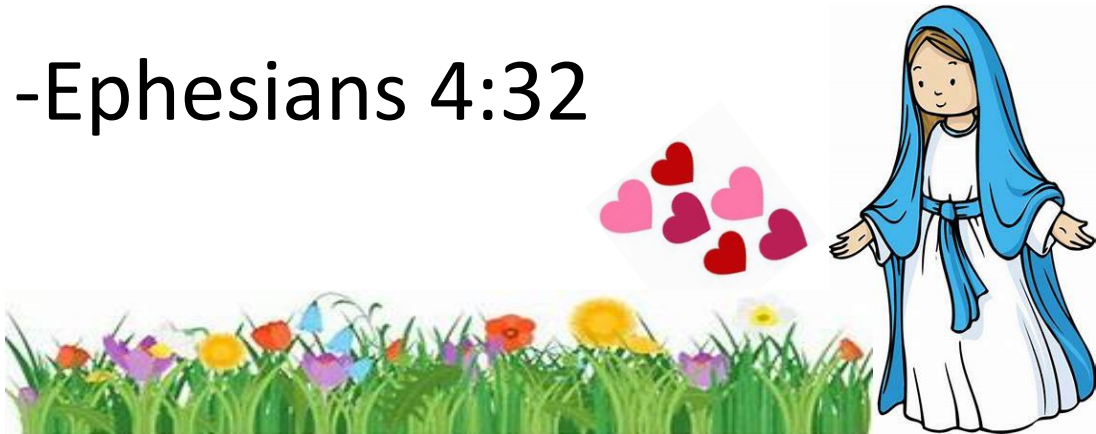




Bible Memory Card

“Be kind to one another.”

-Ephesians 4:32





### Learning Standards

Grade Level	Activities	Learning Standards
<b>Pre-K, Kindergarten</b>	<b>“Growing in Kindness: Flowers in the Mary Garden”</b>	<b>K.9</b> Mary, the Mother of Jesus, is our Mother, too- She is always with us. We can pray for Her to help us to get to know Jesus better, because as His Mother, Mary is very close to Jesus. She is the greatest saint, because She has no sins, and can teach us to be more holy like Her.
<b>Grade 1</b>	<b>“Jesus and Mary, the Sun and Moon”</b>	<b>1.1</b> Jesus and Mary are examples of full faith in God the Father. Their lives were lived without sin, and with total love. We can follow their example in our daily lives, especially as we prepare to receive the sacraments that will bring us into closer union with God. We are a community of faithful who show our faith in God by trusting in His plan for our lives.
<b>Grade 2</b>	<b>“Celebrating First Holy Communion”</b>	<b>2.6</b> The sacraments are special celebrations of God’s love, signs of His Presence. Some sacraments are received only once, including Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders, because they leave marks on the soul for life, but other sacraments are received regularly, these being Communion and Confession. While some sacraments are received at specific junctures in life, and others are consistent, God is always part of our lives, and when we encounter Christ in the sacraments, our connection to Him is made stronger.



## May 2025 Lesson Pacing Guide (Suggested Schedule)

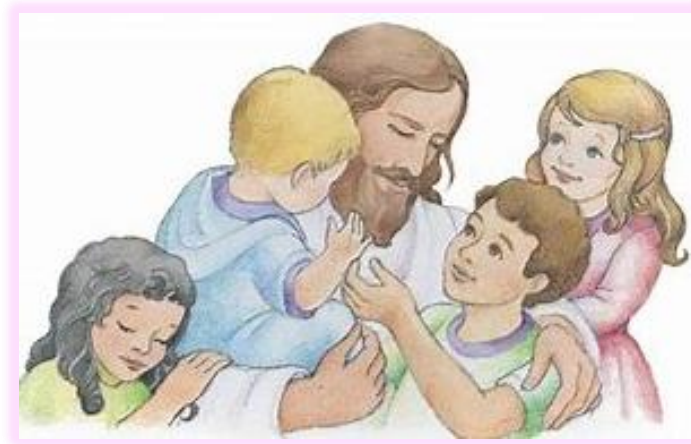
## Grades Pre-K-2

Week Number/Date	Grade Level	Activities
Week 1	Pre-K, Kindergarten	“Growing in Kindness: Flowers in the Mary Garden”
	Grade 1	“Jesus and Mary, the Sun and Moon”
	Grade 2	“Celebrating First Holy Communion”

Week Number/Date	Grade Level	Words to Know	Definitions
Week 1	Pre-K, Kindergarten	Nun	A nun is a woman who dedicates her life to God. She takes vows (makes a promise) to live a life of service and prayer, a special calling to holiness given by God.
	Grade 1	Image	A picture, something you can see. We were all made in God’s image. God made us to be like Him, kind, loving, thoughtful, creative. We can show other people what God is like when they see our kind words and actions.
	Grade 2	Celebrant	The person who is celebrating, or saying, a Mass, usually a priest or bishop. A consecrated person, someone who has received Holy Orders and given their life to God, who gives us the sacraments, especially Communion at the Mass. The celebrant for a Confirmation Mass, for example, is often a bishop or monsignor.

Week Number/Date	Grade Level	Prayers to Know	Text of Prayers
Week 1	Pre-K, Kindergarten	Hail Mary	<b>Hail, Mary, full of grace, The Lord is with thee; Blessed art thou among women, And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, Pray for us sinners,</b>

			<b>Now and at the hour of our death. Amen.</b>
	<b>Grade 1</b>	Hail Mary	<b>Hail, Mary, full of grace, The Lord is with thee; Blessed art thou among women, And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, Pray for us sinners, Now and at the hour of our death. Amen.</b>
	<b>Grade 2</b>	Hail Mary	<b>Hail, Mary, full of grace, The Lord is with thee; Blessed art thou among women, And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, Pray for us sinners, Now and at the hour of our death. Amen.</b>



"Be the living expression of God's kindness; kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile..."



-St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)



## May 2025 Pre-K-2 Activities

### Pre-K/Kindergarten- “Growing in Kindness: Flowers in the Mary Garden”

In the month of May, we celebrate Mary, Jesus’ Mother! May 13 is the feast day of Our Lady of Fatima. Over 100 years ago, Mother Mary came down from Heaven to bring an important message to people on Earth. She visited 3 children in Fatima, Portugal: Jacinta, Francisco, and Lucia (Lucy). She told them to pray to help people around the world. The children listened to Mother Mary, and shared Her message, telling others to pray the Rosary. They wanted to help other people to be kind and loving like Mother Mary and get to Heaven someday. Lucy became a **nun**. She gave her life to God, and continued to pray for everyone.

May is the perfect month for us to share our love for Mother Mary. There are so many beautiful flowers growing in May, as the spring sun shines throughout the day. When you go to church, you can see a Mary garden. A Mary garden has a statue of Mother Mary with flowers planted all around it. When you go to a Mary garden, you can sit down and say a prayer to Mother Mary. You can ask Mother Mary to help you become closer to Her Son, Jesus. Mother Mary is so close to Jesus, and loves Him so much, that when you get to know Mother Mary, you can get to know Jesus better, too. Mother Mary is kind and gentle. She is a teacher and helper. She loves you, and wants to give you special blessings from Jesus.

When we see flowers, we think of Mother Mary. Flowers such as roses smell very sweet. Mother Mary is called a “rose” sometimes, because Her kindness is sweet to God. Whenever we are kind, it makes God happy. Flowers are also very colorful. Periwinkle flowers remind us of Mary, because they are blue, like the color of the dress we usually see Mother Mary wearing in pictures. Mother Mary reminds us to keep praying and growing in kindness, like flowers.

Mary is our Mother in Heaven. She watches over us and prays for us. If you look at statues of Mother Mary, like the Our Lady of Fatima statue, you will see Mary wearing a crown, because She is the Queen of Heaven. In the month of May, there are May crownings, when people sing songs about Mary and put a crown onto their Mary statue. Sometimes the crowns are made from flowers. If you have a Mother Mary statue at home, you can do your own May crowning.

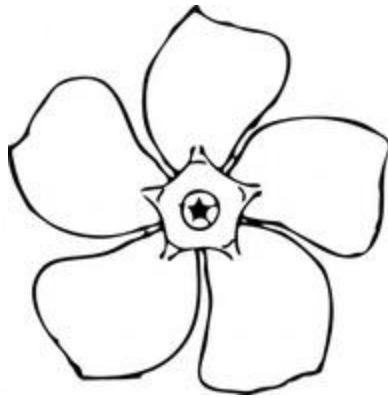


**Make your own crown for Mary! You can put it on a Mary statue. Cut out the rectangular strip of paper on the next page (the headband for the crown). Cut out your favorite flowers that represent Mary and glue them on the crown headband, or draw your own. Then, think of something you can give from your heart to Mary with your flower crown. What is a special prayer you could say, song you could sing, or kind words you could offer to share your love for Mother Mary? →**





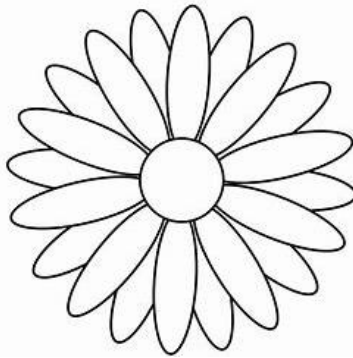
**Rose**



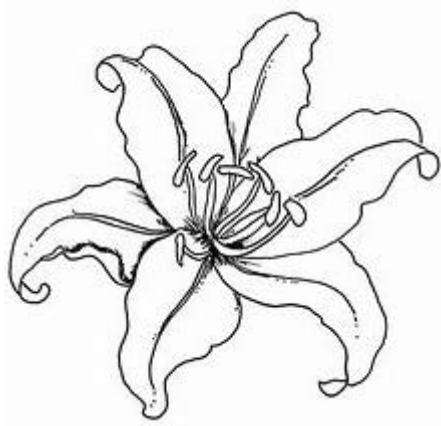
**Periwinkle**



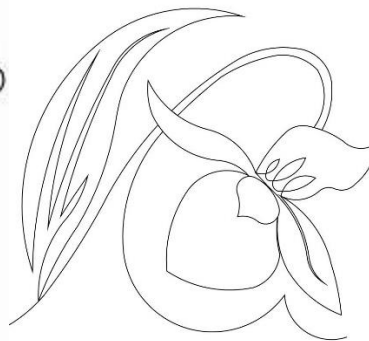
**Iris**



**Carnation**



**Lily**



**Lady Slipper**





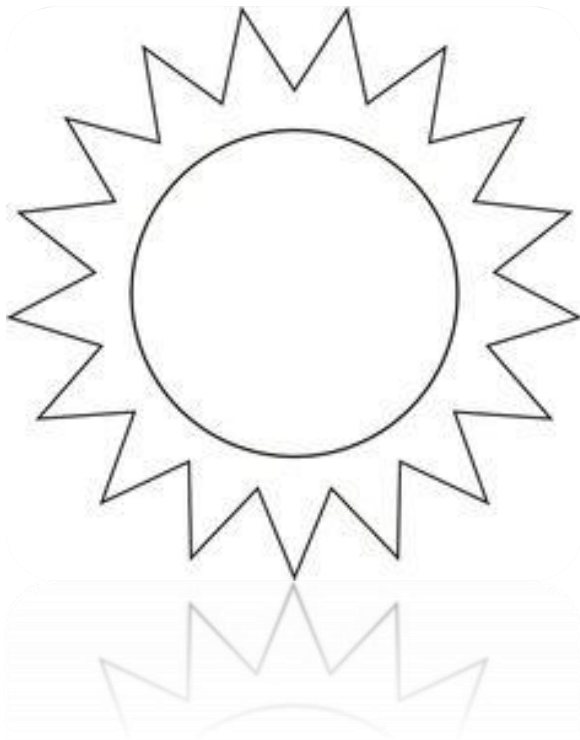


## Grade 1- "Jesus and Mary, the Sun and Moon"

It is spring, and the sun is shining. Jesus is like the sun, because He rose again after dying on the Cross, and every day, the sun rises. Jesus is the Light of the World. When we see the sun shining, we are happy. We know it will be a beautiful day! We can go outside and enjoy the world God created. Jesus makes us happy. He brings light into our lives, because He is kind. This month, May, is Mary's month. Mother Mary is the Mother of Jesus, and She is a Mother to us. We are in God's family, and Mary brings us closer to God. She is a kind and loving Mother. Whenever we pray and ask Her to help us, She listens.

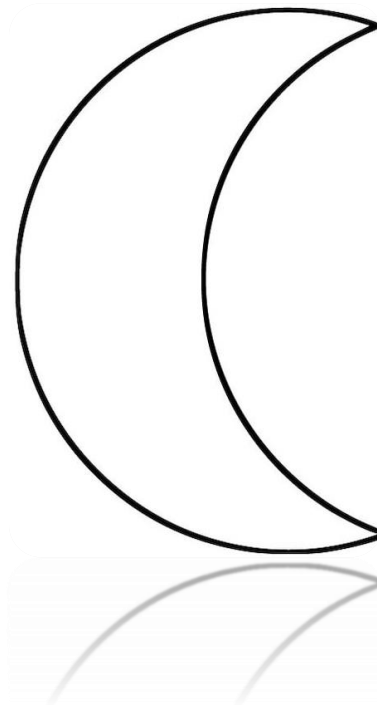
Just as Jesus is like the sun, Mother Mary is like the moon. The moon reflects the light of the sun. When you look in the mirror, you see a reflection of you. The light allows us to see this reflection. Mother Mary is a reflection of Jesus, because She is a shining light of love and kindness, just like Him. When we look at Mary, we see someone who is like Jesus. When you look in the mirror, you see a reflection of someone who is like Jesus and Mary, too. You were made in God's **image**. An image is something you can see, like a picture. When we are kind like Jesus, others can see Jesus in us. We can see God and His love in the kind hearts of others, because He made their hearts. God made you special, to be kind and loving like Him!

😊 Draw and write how you can be kind like Jesus and Mary and shine your light. 😊



I can be kind like Jesus by

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I can be kind like Mary by

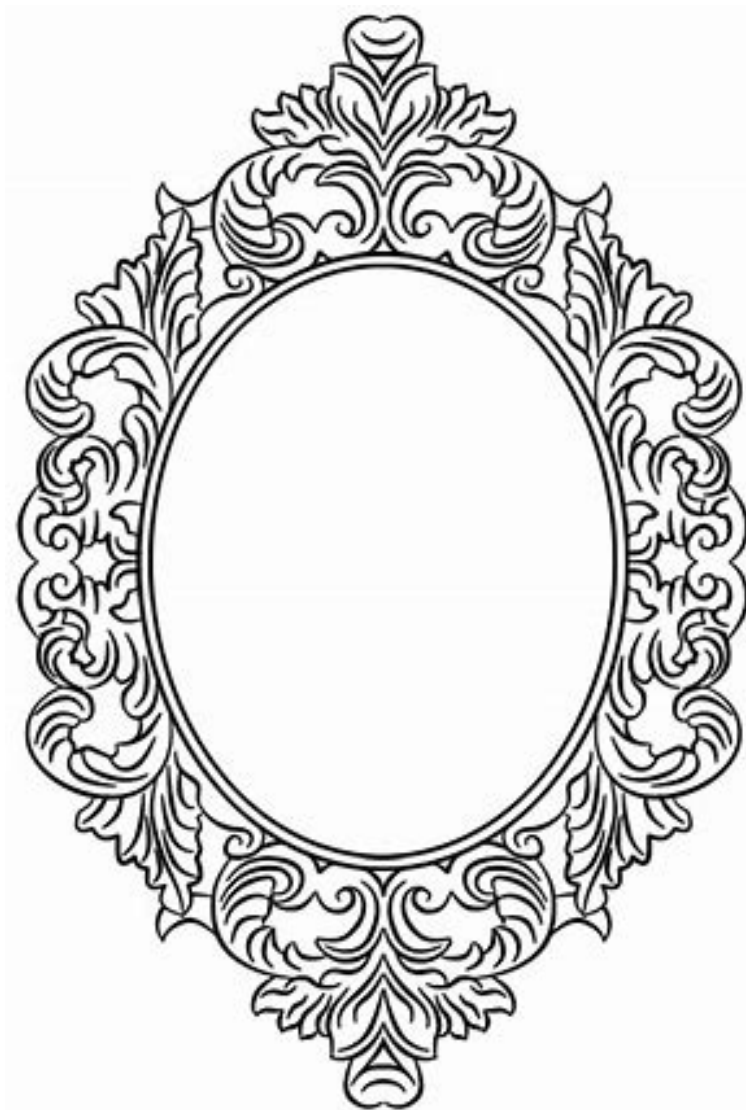
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**I was made in the image of \_\_\_\_\_.**

**I am special, because \_\_\_\_\_**

**Draw yourself in the mirror below.**



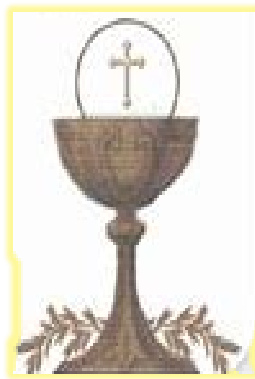
## Grade 2- “Celebrating First Holy Communion”



May is the month of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and our Mother in Heaven. On May 13, we celebrate the feast day of Our Lady of Fatima. May 13 is the day Mother Mary first appeared to 3 children in Fatima, Portugal, in the year 1917. The children, Francisco, Jacinta, and Lucia (Lucy), received a special message from Mother Mary. She came down from Heaven to remind people to keep praying, especially the Rosary, and to go to Confession to make up for when they had not followed God. Mother Mary is kind, showing us what we need to do to become closer to Jesus, and one day go to Heaven. Mother Mary was a loving Mother to Her Son, Jesus, and She is a loving Mother to us, which we can see in Her gentleness and kindness to the people She has appeared to, like the Fatima children. Seeing Mother Mary's kindness, we see how we can treat other people with love, too.

In 1916, a year before Mother Mary came to the children of Fatima, an angel appeared to the children to give them Holy Communion. The children received Holy Communion kneeling and on the tongue. Holy Communion prepares us to become closer to Jesus and Mary. Receiving Holy Communion helped the children be ready to meet Mary, and to listen to what She asked them to do, like praying the Rosary. Their hearts were filled with the love of Jesus.

We will celebrate our First Holy Communion Mass in May. As we get closer to the time of First Communion, we can ask Mary to pray for us. Mother Mary can give you special blessings from Jesus, because as His Mother, She is very close to Him. Mother Mary is your Mother in Heaven, and wants to help you. She loves you, and will pray for you when you talk with Her and tell Her how you would like for Her to help you.



The **celebrant** of the Mass is the priest who celebrates, or says, the Mass. A celebrant is who gives us the sacrament. Usually, when we say we “celebrate” something, like a birthday or a holiday such as Christmas, it means we do special things on that day, like having a party or seeing family and friends, to share our happiness. We celebrate good things we want to remember. A celebration is a joyful time.

The Mass is a celebration. We celebrate God’s love for us. We remember Jesus giving His life for us, and coming back to be with us. We celebrate Jesus being with us in the Eucharist we receive at Holy Communion. This is why we come together as one Church family to share the Bread of Life, the Host that is Jesus’ Body, receiving.

**Think of a celebration you went to (like a birthday or holiday party):**

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**How is this like the Mass, or how is it different? What did you do to get ready for the celebration, compared to how you are getting ready for First Communion? You can draw or write your ideas.**

Preparing for celebration

Preparing for First Communion

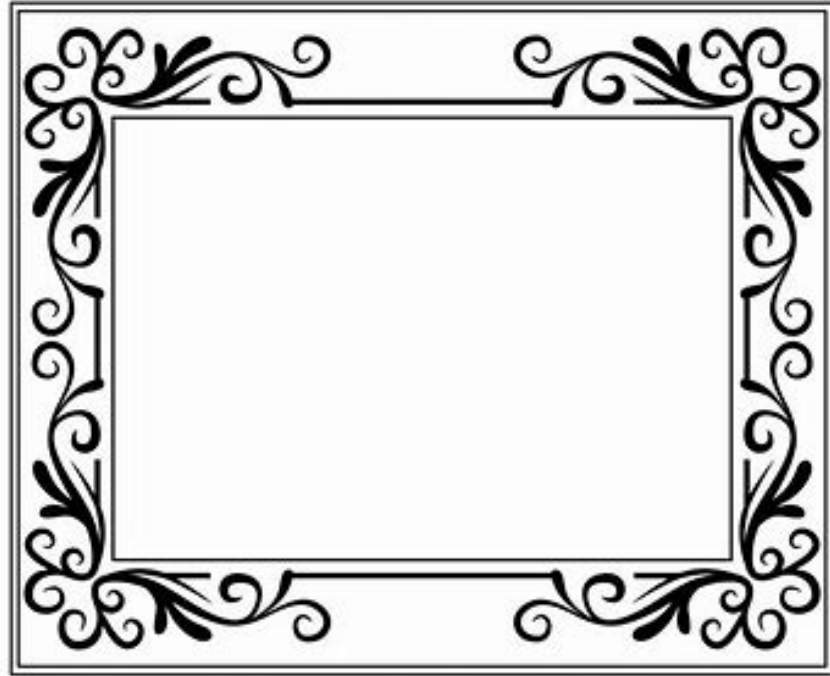
Who did you celebrate?

Who do we celebrate (remember) at Mass?

Who celebrates a Mass (who is the **celebrant**)?



# My First Holy Communion



Me on the day of my First Holy Communion

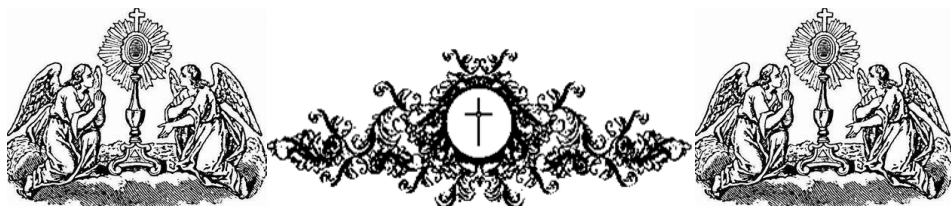
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Celebrant: \_\_\_\_\_

My favorite First Holy Communion memory: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## May 2025 Pre-K-2 Review

Use this review sheet as a reference to track progress and check that learning goals are met.

**Recap:** What did we learn?

All Grades

- May is a special month to celebrate Mary
- Mary is the Mother of Jesus
- Mother Mary helps us to become closer to Jesus, and know Him better, because She is His Mother, and is so close to Him
- Mother Mary is our Mother in Heaven, too. We can ask Mother Mary to help us become closer to Jesus when we pray

Pre-K/Kindergarten

- Our Lady of Fatima's feast day is celebrated on May 13
- Mother Mary is gentle and kind. She loves each of us, and wants to help us. She appeared to the Fatima children to tell them about how important it is to pray, because this is what can bring us to Heaven someday
- Mother Mary wears a crown, because She is Queen of Heaven
- A church Mary garden has a Mother Mary statue with flowers planted around it
- Mary gardens are places we can go to pray, and ask Mother Mary to help us
- Like flowers in the garden, we can keep growing, and doing kind things that bring us closer to Jesus and Mary. Mother Mary shows us how we can be kind

Grade 1

- Jesus is like the sun, and Mother Mary is like the moon
- Jesus rose to life after dying on the Cross. Jesus is like the sun, because the sun rises after the night. The sun is a light, just like how Jesus is the Light of the World. He brings us hope and happiness, like how sunshine makes us happy on a nice spring day
- Mother Mary is like the moon. The moon reflects the sun's light. Mother Mary reflects Jesus' light. When we see Mother Mary's kindness, we are reminded of Jesus' kindness.
- The sun and moon both shine. Mother Mary and Jesus shine, because they have the love of God in their hearts, a light that can lead us to Heaven
- We were all made in God's image. We were made to be like God, kind and loving. We can reflect God's love, showing other people His love, in what we say and do

Grade 2

- Receiving Holy Communion prepares us to become closer to Jesus, to know Him better
- When we ask Mother Mary to help us to make a good Holy Communion, She will pray for us. Mother Mary loves Her Son, Jesus, and loves us. She is so close to Her Son, Jesus, that She can help us to receive Jesus in the Eucharist with love and respect



- In 1917, on May 13, Mother Mary first appeared to the Fatima children to give them a special message about how important it is to pray and go to Confession, because doing these things will help us to love Jesus better, and help us love each other better.
- In 1916, the Fatima children received their First Communion. This helped prepare them to meet Mother Mary, and to grow closer to Jesus by doing what She asked, especially praying the Rosary
- Mother Mary wants to help us grow closer to Jesus and go to Heaven one day because She is a kind and loving Mother. She wants us to be happy and peaceful
- The sacraments help us to grow in kindness, and be kind like Mother Mary
- The celebrant is who says the Mass. Mass is a celebration of Jesus and His love for us. Jesus is Present in the Eucharist we receive at Holy Communion during Mass
- The Mass is a different celebration than other celebrations we might go to, like birthday or holiday parties
- The Mass is the holiest celebration. We are in God's house when we go to church for Mass.
- But like other celebrations, the Mass is joyful. We sing and celebrate together, as a Church family, remembering the good things God has done for us. We receive God's greatest gift, the Eucharist, because we receive Jesus in our hearts

### **What vocabulary words did we practice?**

#### **Pre-K/Kindergarten**

☐ Nun

#### **Grade 1**

☐ Image

#### **Grade 2**

☐ Celebrant

### **What prayers did we practice?**

#### **Pre-K/Kindergarten**

☐ Hail Mary

#### **Grade 1**

☐ Hail Mary

#### **Grade 2**

☐ Hail Mary

### **Checklist: Activity Completion**

#### **Pre-K/Kindergarten**

- ☐ “Growing in Kindness: Flowers in the Mary Garden”

**Grade 1**

- ☐ “Jesus and Mary, the Sun and Moon”

**Grade 2**

- ☐ “Celebrating First Holy Communion”

**Quick Check:**

Tell us about your experience with these activities this month! Our May 2025 Google Form for Grades Pre-K-2 is available here: <https://forms.gle/gBterm3a55SXsSH7>

