

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

## **May 2026 Activity Packet**

### **Grades 7-9**



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



**May 2026 Table of Contents**



**Overview.....3**

**Standards.....5**

**Pacing Guide.....6**

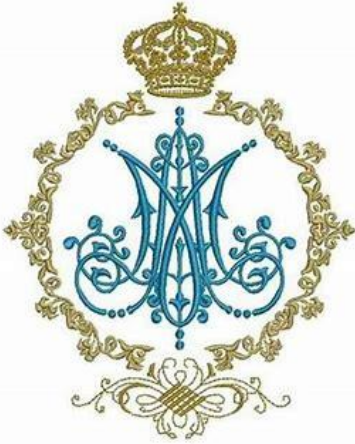
**Activities.....9**

**Grade 7.....9**

**Grade 8.....11**

**Grade 9.....13**

**Review.....24**



**May 2026 Overview: Grades 7-9**

**Theme:** Month of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**Litany of the Holy Eucharist Title:** Sacred Host, in which the soul is filled with grace

**Ninth Office of the Sacred Heart:** Reparator

**Invocation of the Ninth Choir of Holy Angels:** By the intercession of St. Michael and the celestial Choir of Angels may the Lord grant us to be protected by them in this mortal life and conducted in the life to come to Heaven.

**Ninth Aspiration to the Sacred Heart:** Heart of Jesus, reign for ever in my heart, and grant me the grace to reign one day with you in heaven.

**Thematic Guiding Questions, 7-9:**

- ✠ Who is the Blessed Virgin Mary? Why do we honor the Blessed Virgin Mary in our faith?
- ✠ How is Mother Mary like a holy angel? Why is she greater than the holy angels?
- ✠ How do the holy angels honor Our Lady, and how may we?
- ✠ How does having Mother Mary in our heart help us to be “merry”?
- ✠ We crown statues of Mary in this month- how could we “crown” Mary in our own lives, making Her a larger part of our daily lives?
- ✠ The month of May is dedicated to Mary, but looking back at this past religious education year, how have you seen her presence in each month? Why and how do we celebrate Our Lady year-round?
- ✠ In October, we learned about enthroning the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and putting Christ the King at the center of our hearts. What does it mean to enthrone Mary as Queen of our hearts? Why is it important that we do this in our spiritual lives, too?

**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. The holy angels sing praises to God with Mother Mary; we can imitate them in doing the same.






**Monthly Challenge:** Research scapular devotions. Choose a scapular you would like to learn about, identify which religious community the scapular is associated with, and pray for that community. You might also choose your own scapular to wear, such as the St. Michael the Archangel scapular, 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.” Ask the holy angels to help you to wear your holy scapular with reverence, and to practice the devotions associated with your holy scapular, with great love. Pray that they would always keep you under Our Lady’s mantle, near to her Immaculate Heart, that you may be protected.

Practice the ninth Office of the Sacred Heart in your visit to the Blessed Sacrament. Pray to make up for any times when you or others did not reverence the Blessed Sacrament. In your prayers, ask that everyone would come to know and love Jesus, to adore Him as the holy angels do. Ask the holy angels to help you to develop a heart as much like Jesus’ as possible, that you may adore God the Father with a perfect love. Pray to be like the holy angels in faithfully adoring God, cooperating with His grace.

**Overall Learning Goals:** This month, our overall goal is to learn about the importance of Mother Mary to our Church, considering how She is an example of kindness in Her spiritual works that complement Jesus' saving role in Church history. Our goal is to enrich our understanding of the Church's history and traditions as we look at how Mother Mary sheds light on what it means to live out our Faith through kind and charitable acts.

**Summary of Activities:** Our activities will center around special devotions to Mother Mary in the month of May, looking at how the feast days and holidays in this month honor Her. We will learn about sacramentals like the Holy Rosary and Miraculous Medal help us to grow closer to Jesus through Mother Mary, engaging with Church teachings about Mother Mary through art, reflection, and prayer. To apply our learning, we will identify how we can become more like Jesus and Mary in our own acts of kindness. As we prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation in May, we will explore how this special sacrament overlaps with our celebrations of Mother Mary and Pentecost, and reflect on how we can carry our faith forward like the apostles and Mother Mary did.

**Additional Enrichment Ideas:**

-  Consecrate yourself to Mary in prayer. Mother Mary will direct your prayers to where they are most needed, using the prayers you offer to Her in your heart for the greatest good. To start the day with Mary, consecration prayers can be said every morning. You can find a collection of Marian prayers here: <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/devotions/marian-prayers-72>
-  Create a Mary garden in your backyard. You can plant flower seeds in clay pots to put around an outdoor statue of Mary. You could also make an indoor Marian shrine, picking out your favorite flowers to put on a home altar around a small statue of Mary. If you don't have a statue, you can use a laminated prayer card or print image of Mary (when placing outside, the image can be put on a post).
-  In honor of Mother Mary and Her Miraculous Medal, begin saying a perpetual novena. Whereas a novena is nine consecutive days of prayer, a perpetual novena is ongoing. The Miraculous Medal perpetual novena includes the Memorare, a special prayer to Mother Mary. For the perpetual novena prayers, visit <https://miraculousmedal.org/worship-and-prayer/perpetual-novena/>. Visit the Miraculous Medal Shrine website to see Mass and praying of the perpetual novena livestreamed: <https://miraculousmedal.org/livestream/>
-  Sign up for daily emails from Aleteia with Scripture verses to focus on each day, prayer (<https://cdn.forms-content.sg-form.com/4a69ede7-d3a2-11ed-8377-fe995a783794>)
-  After Confirmation, make a sacrament scrapbook to keep your memories of the sacraments you've made. You can combine your pages in a family album. You can use the Confirmation scrapbook page included in this packet.

### Learning Standards

Grade Level	Activities	Learning Standards
<b>Grade 7</b>	<b>“Mother Mary’s Kindness: The Visitation”</b>	<b>7.8</b> The magisterium is the official teaching authority of the Church. On a large scale, the Pope and bishops exercise this authority in transmitting the faith. The deposit of faith refers to the teachings and traditions of the Church to be passed down to future generations, just as these have been passed on to us.
<b>Grade 8</b>	<b>“The Miraculous Medal and Mary’s Kindness”</b>	<b>8.4</b> Heresies are falsehoods about Church teachings that are intentionally spread to deceive... It is important to recognize heresy and counter it with the truth, which we can do when we know Christ and our Faith. When we defend the truth, we are helping lead others to Jesus, and saying “yes” to God’s plan, like Mary and Jesus did. <b>8.9</b> Mother Mary continues to shape history, working with us now, serving as a channel of grace, a mediator between ourselves and Her Son.
<b>Grade 9</b>	<b>“Full of Grace: Mother Mary’s Kindness”</b>	<b>9.1</b> Jesus is the Bridegroom of the Church. The Church is Bride of Christ... the priest becomes an “alter Christus,” another Christ, wed to the Church. Mary is wed to the Holy Spirit... Mary is the “New Eve” since She counteracted the disobedience of Eve with Her faithfulness.



## May 2026 Lesson Pacing Guide (Suggested Schedule)

### Grades 7-9

Week Number/Date	Grade Level	Activities
Week 1	Grade 7	“Mother Mary’s Kindness: The Visitation”
	Grade 8	“The Miraculous Medal and Mary’s Kindness”
	Grade 9	“Full of Grace: Mother Mary’s Kindness”

Week Number/Date	Grade Level	Words to Practice	Definitions
Week 1	Grade 7	<b>Deposit of faith</b>	Church teachings and traditions to be handed down (Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition, our Faith as written down and lived out, respectively).
		<b>The Magnificat</b>	The prayer said by Mary, “My soul doth magnify the Lord,” when she went to visit Her cousin, Elizabeth, while She was pregnant. Mary said this in response to Elizabeth’s greeting (words from the “Hail Mary” prayer, “Blessed are you among women,”), glorifying God for choosing Her to bear the Christ Child.
		<b>Visitation</b>	The second Joyful Mystery of the Rosary, this event refers to when Mother Mary traveled to visit Her cousin, Elizabeth, while Elizabeth was pregnant for John the Baptist, and Mother Mary was expecting Her Son, Jesus.
	Grade 8	<b>Assumption</b>	When Mary, the Mother of Jesus, rose into Heaven.
		<b>Nestorianism</b>	The false teaching that Mother Mary was only the mother of the human Jesus, not the Mother of God. The

			Council of Ephesus in 431 A.D. fought the heresy of Nestorianism with the true Catholic teaching that Mother Mary is the Mother of God, because Jesus is fully human and fully divine, meaning that She is fully His Mother.
	<b>Grade 9</b>	<b>Actual grace</b>	Grace given by God to help us avoid sin so that we can receive sanctifying grace.
		<b>Sanctifying Grace</b>	Grace that makes us holy, cleansing us of sin. In Baptism, it washes away original sin.

<b>Week Number/Date</b>	<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Prayers to Know</b>	<b>Text of Prayers</b>
<b>Week 1</b>	<b>Grade 7</b>	<b>Magnificat</b>	<p><b>My soul magnifies the Lord And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; Because He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaid; For behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed; Because He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name; And His mercy is from generation to generation on those who fear Him. He has shown might with His arm, He has scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart. He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty. He has given help to Israel, his servant, mindful of His mercy Even as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his posterity forever.</b></p>

	<b>Grade 8</b>	The Memorare	<b>Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petition, but in thy mercy, hear and answer me. Amen.</b>
	<b>Grade 9 (&amp; 10-12)</b>	The Memorare	<b>Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petition, but in thy mercy, hear and answer me. Amen.</b>



May 2026 7-9 Activities

Grade 7- “Mother Mary’s Kindness: The Visitation”



On May 31, we celebrate the Feast of the **Visitation**. The Visitation is the Second Joyful Mystery of the Holy Rosary. On the Feast of the Visitation, we remember when Mother Mary went to visit Her cousin, St. Elizabeth. Mary was going to help St. Elizabeth, who would soon be having her child, St. John the Baptist. Mother Mary and St. Elizabeth were overjoyed to see each other. It was a special time, because they both would soon be mothers, and were celebrating the gift of life together. When St. Elizabeth stood by Mother Mary, the baby in her womb “leaped” for joy. Saint John the Baptist was overjoyed to be near his cousin, Jesus, Who was in Mary’s womb. John the Baptist and Jesus had not been born yet, but already, Jesus was bringing joy and hope to others, and St. John the Baptist was showing honor and love for Our Lord, Jesus.

Mother Mary went on a long journey to see her cousin, traveling by donkey. She was carrying Her own child, but didn’t hesitate to help St. Elizabeth, and to come see her so that she could celebrate with her, showing Her love for Her cousin. She was willing to go through the discomfort of traveling out of Her kindness. Her love was so great, that She didn’t mind making sacrifices. Mother Mary shows us that kindness grows from the joy and love we have in our hearts. We are kind, because we want to share our joy and love for God. Kind acts are how we shine Jesus’ light for everyone to see.

When Mother Mary arrived, St. Elizabeth said, “Blessed are you among women.” She was recognizing that Mother Mary was greatly blessed by God to be the Mother of Jesus, and that Mother Mary’s Immaculate Heart, Her pure and loving Heart, had set Her apart for this special blessing. Mother Mary used all the spiritual gifts God blessed Her with to bless others. Mother Mary was humble, saying to St. Elizabeth, “My soul magnifies the Lord.” Mother Mary was saying that all She was, and did, was to honor God. She didn’t take credit for Herself, but praised God. She graciously received St. Elizabeth’s kind words with her own kind and beautiful prayer, which we call the “Song of Mary,” or the “**Magnificat**,” for the Latin word for “magnify.”

1. **How is the Visitation an example of Mother Mary’s kindness? Why do you think this is a Joyful Mystery (think about how kindness and joy are connected)?**

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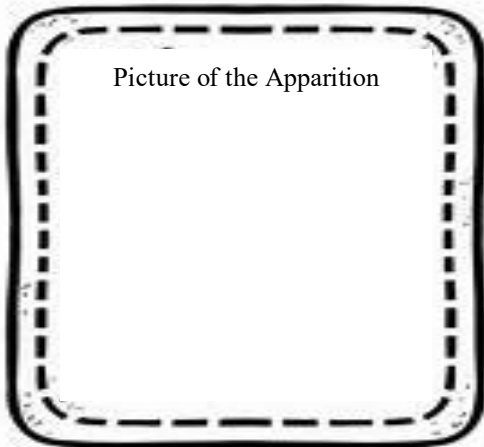


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2. The whole month of May is dedicated to Mary. The **deposit of faith** refers to the teachings of our Church that are passed down, taught to new generations of people. Mother Mary is the Mother of our Church. She has passed down Her love for Her Son, →

Jesus, to us, and remains an example of kindness. We continue to learn from Mother Mary, who has appeared to people around the world to bring messages reminding people of how to be faithful to God. She visits us, because She cares about us, and wants us to grow closer to Jesus. **Research Our Lady of Fatima, whose feast day is May 13, or a different Marian apparition of your choice.**

Name of Marian Apparition: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



What message did Mother Mary bring?  
What did She ask people to do?

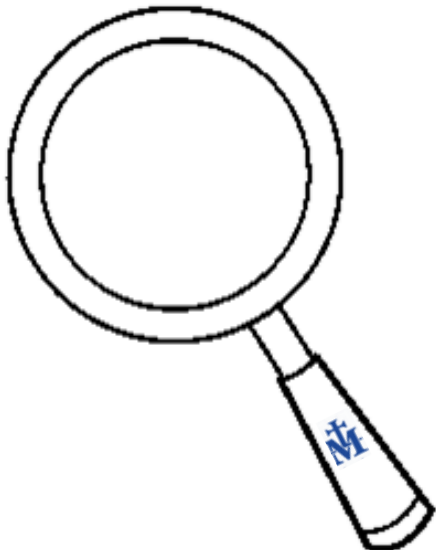
How can doing what Mother Mary asked  
bring us closer to Jesus?

How do you think this apparition shows  
Mother Mary's love and kindness?

Country where Mary appeared: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of apparition: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Mother Mary said "My soul doth magnify the Lord." We use magnifying glasses to better see things up close. When we honor God, using our lives to reflect His kindness to other people, we help each other to see and know God, to become closer to Him. **How can you use your knowledge and talents to magnify the Lord like Mother Mary? What are some acts of kindness you can do to make an impact? You may draw your ideas in the magnifying glass, or in the blank spaces below, as well.**



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## Grade 8- “The Miraculous Medal and Mary’s Kindness”



May is Mary’s month. Throughout the Church year, we celebrate feast days relating to the lives of Mother Mary and Her Son, Jesus, because to celebrate Jesus means to also celebrate His Mother, who gave Him life, so that He could be with us. Through Mary, God brought about this miracle, and through Mary, He continues to bring about miracles. When we ask Mother Mary to help us, we open our hearts to receiving many special graces, especially when we wear the Miraculous Medal, the medal Mary designed. Asking Mary to “pray for us,” like it says on the Medal, can bring about miraculous answers to our prayers as Mother Mary brings them to Her Son, Jesus, in Heaven. As our Mother, She listens to all of our prayers in Her kind, gentle way.

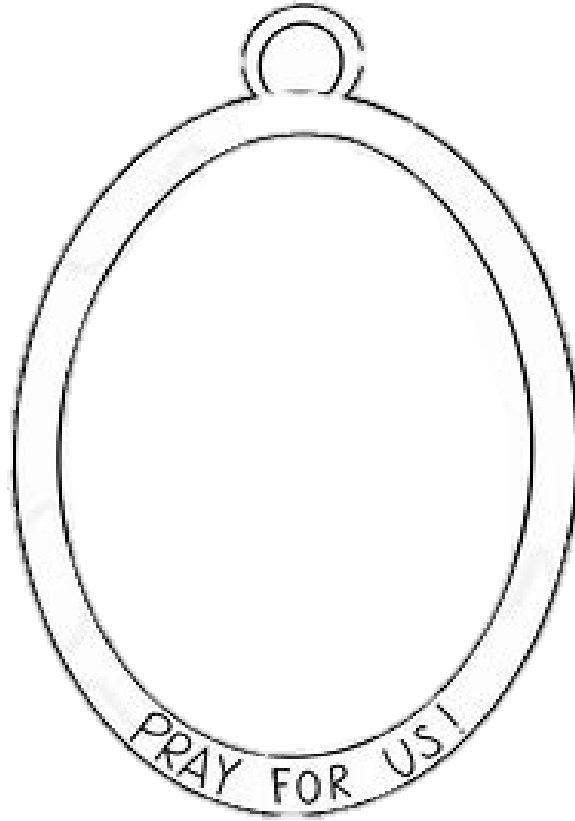
Mother Mary is the Queen of Heaven. In August, we celebrate the feast days of the **Assumption** and the Coronation, when we remember Mother Mary going up to Heaven, and being crowned Queen of Heaven. She is not divine (not God), but is the greatest saint of all of the people in Heaven. Mother Mary is above the holy angels, because only Mother Mary has the unique role of being the Mother of God. In the 400s, people called the Nestorians believed that Mother Mary was only the Mother of the human Jesus (a way of thinking called **Nestorianism**), but Jesus is both completely human, and completely God. These aren’t separate pieces of Who He is. Mother Mary is truly the Mother of God, which is why we respect Her so deeply in our Church. Mary, Mother of the Church, knows all of us in the Church, as we are the children of God. In 431, the Council of Ephesus was held to correct the Nestorians, declare the truth, and share it, so that others would be led to Jesus and Mary.

With Mary being the Queen of Heaven, it’s common to see symbols of the heavens, the whole universe created by God, like the moon and stars, used to represent Mary. When we look at the Miraculous Medal, we see on the front an image of Mary standing on the Earth, crushing the head of the serpent, the snake representing Satan. On the back, we see 12 stars around the letter “M” with a cross. The Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Sacred Heart of Jesus are also within the crown of 12 stars. These images remind us that Mary’s Immaculate Heart will triumph. Through Mary’s help, we can be led closer to Jesus, and protected from sin. Mother Mary can help us overcome any challenge as She prays for us. →



1. **Research other common symbols of Mother Mary. Read or listen to the Litany of Mary, which lists Her titles, for inspiration:**

<https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/devotions/litany-of-loreto-246>. When you read Mary's titles, you can see examples of symbols that are used to represent Mary. **Then, design your own Marian medal using Marian symbols you researched. Which symbols did you choose, and why? How do they represent Mary?**



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2. The Miraculous Medal Shrine's art museum has sculptures and paintings inspired by Mother Mary, the Miraculous Medal, Jesus, and the saints. Visit the art museum's website to see a sampling of artworks: <https://miraculousmedal.org/visit-us/art-museum-at-the-miraculous-medal-shrine/>. Which piece speaks to you the most, and why? What about it stands out to you? How do you think it reflects the kindness of Jesus and Mary?

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## Grade 9: “Full of Grace: Mother Mary’s Kindness”



When we address Mother Mary, we say “Hail Mary, full of grace.” Completely without sin, Mother Mary only has God’s grace in Her soul. Adam and Eve brought sin into the world when they disobeyed God. All of the people who would come after Adam and Eve would be born with original sin, sin inherited from Adam and Eve, except for Mother Mary. Mother Mary is the example of what God intended for all human beings to be, before sin: full of grace.

Mother Mary helps us to receive special graces from God when we pray for Her to help us. We become closer to Jesus through the person closest to Him: His Mother, Mary, who brings our prayers to Him, interceding for us. Wearing the Miraculous Medal, a blessed medal designed by Mother Mary Herself, is one way we can open ourselves to receiving graces. When you receive the sacrament of Confirmation, the graces you received from Baptism are deepened. Baptism erases original sin, giving **sanctifying grace** that makes us holier. We go to Confession for sins we actually commit, and receive actual grace that heals us. Only God can give grace, but through Mother Mary, we become closer to God, and can open our hearts to more graces. At Confirmation, the graces we receive at Baptism are perfected and completed. We receive the graces we did at Holy Baptism more fully.

Mother Mary listened to God, following His plan. Both the sacraments of Holy Matrimony and Holy Orders are about service and commitment. Mother Mary is the Bride of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gave Mary every grace. She committed Herself to serving God. To serve God is to be kind, to help others, and to listen to where God is calling us to serve Him with our gifts. Confirmation helps us, as followers of God, to discern, to better understand, how God wants us to serve Him, as we receive deeper spiritual gifts like knowledge, wisdom, and courage.

If you look at a Marian monogram, a symbol with Mary’s initial, the letter “M” like a stamp, you’ll also see the letter “A” linked with it. This stands for the Latin “Auspice Maria,” “under Mary’s protection.” Mary is the Mother of the Church, because as the Mother of Christ, She is also Mother of the Church He created. She watches over everyone in the Church, helping to protect us. When the apostles received the Gifts of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, in the upper room, She was there. She will be with you when you are confirmed as well.

1. Pentecost is called the “birthday” of the Church, because Peter and the apostles officially started leading the Church forward after Jesus went to Heaven. They went forth and baptized new believers in Jesus’ name. They carried on Jesus’ mission by building up the Church. **How is Confirmation, and its celebration, like a birthday in our Church?**

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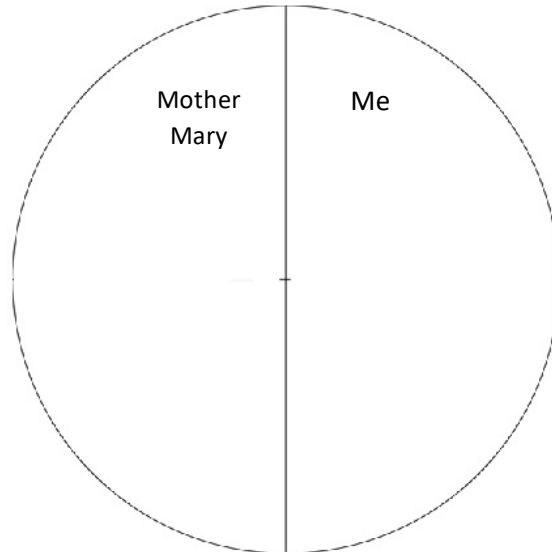
2. Which Gift of the Holy Spirit did Mary live out that most inspires you? How would you imitate Mother Mary in living out this Gift? →

You can also use the graphic organizer below to represent your ideas.

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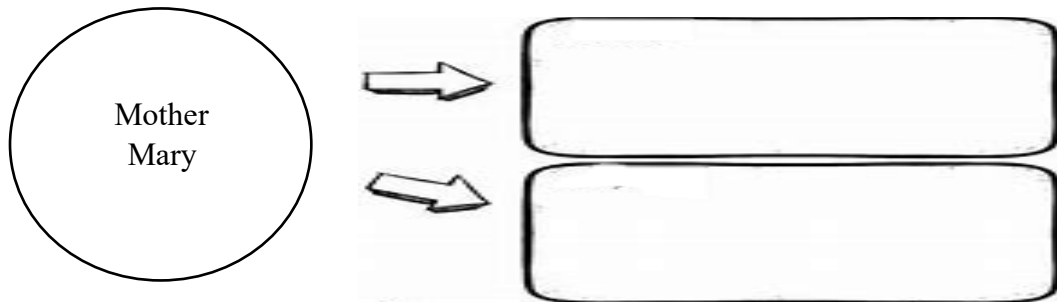
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Imitation of Mary → Imitation of Christ

3. In this month of May dedicated to Mother Mary, we also celebrate Pentecost. Pentecost is linked to Confirmation, because when we are confirmed, we are reliving when the apostles received the Gifts of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, graces they needed to follow in Jesus' footsteps. How is Mother Mary connected to Pentecost and the Holy Spirit?



4. How can we open ourselves to receiving graces from God? What can you do in the month of May to become closer to Mary, so that you can better know Jesus?

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5. Read more about sanctifying grace in Chapter 6 (pages 25-30) in your *Devotion to the Holy Spirit* book. Mother Mary treasured God's love in Her Heart. She heard and saw God all around Her, and stored these memories of God in Her Heart. Why is sanctifying grace called a precious gem, a gift and treasure, in our hearts? How is this grace from Baptism connected to Confirmation?

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~My Confirmation~



A Picture from my Confirmation

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

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

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

My favorite Confirmation memory: \_\_\_\_\_

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

How I am seeing the Holy Spirit working in my life since Confirmation:

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

## Confirmation Discipleship Pledge

You are a disciple, someone who learns about and follows Christ. After Confirmation, think about how you can carry the Gifts of the Holy Spirit forward. Confirmation is not the end of your learning. It's the beginning of a new part in your faith journey, your journey to knowing God even better.

Use these prompts to create a discipleship pledge, a plan of commitment to God. Determine which steps you can take to continue growing in your faith after Confirmation.

Ask yourself questions like these as you work on your pledge:

- What do I most want to continue learning about God right now?
  - What books can I read to learn more about God?
  - What other Catholic resources can I use to gain knowledge of God?
- How can I further integrate prayer into my daily life?
  - What are Catholic devotions that can deepen my love for God?
  - What can I do to grow in my love for, and understanding of, the Holy Mass and the sacraments?
  - How can I spend more time with God?
- How can I share what I have learned, bringing my gifts into the world?
  - Who is in need in my community? How can I help them?
  - What do I most want others to know about God? How can I reflect God in my actions?
- Who can I reach out to as a friend in faith in my spiritual journey?
  - Who might be a good spiritual director for me, someone to answer my questions about the Catholic Faith, and guide me?

I will work on building my relationship with God by: \_\_\_\_\_

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I will work on growing in my knowledge of God by: \_\_\_\_\_

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I will work on using the Gifts of the Holy Spirit by: \_\_\_\_\_

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I will work on sharing my knowledge of God with others by: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Fill out your name and Confirmation saint name on the blank lines in the pledge card below. Cut it out and bring it with you to remind you to use your time and talent to honor God, and that your Confirmation saint is always with you to help.**

I, \_\_\_\_\_,  
commit to prayer, study, stewardship, and  
evangelization in my Catholic Faith. I will  
continue to work on growing in my relationship  
with God, my knowledge of God, my application of  
the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, and my spiritual  
outreach to others.

St. \_\_\_\_\_, pray for me.



## May 2026 7-9 Review

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

**Recap:** What did I learn?

All Grades

- May is a month dedicated to Mother Mary
- Mother Mary is an example of kindness in her dedication to caring for others
- Mother Mary cares for us. She channels Her love for God into all She does
- There are many special feast days in May connected to Mother Mary, including Our Lady of Fatima, Pentecost, and the Visitation
- Wearing the Miraculous Medal opens us up to receiving special graces

Grade 7

- The feast day of the Visitation of Mary is celebrated on May 31. We remember Mother Mary visiting Her cousin, St. Elizabeth, the mother of St. John the Baptist
- Mother Mary's visit shows her kindness. She loved Her cousin, and went to help her as St. Elizabeth prepared for her child to be born
- Mother Mary prayed the Magnificat prayer during this visit, showing Her kind humbleness
- Just as Mother Mary helped St. Elizabeth, She continues to help us, guiding us to eternal happiness
- Mother Mary has brought messages from Heaven to people around the world, reminding them of Jesus' teachings. She asks people to do what will honor Jesus, especially through prayer, so that they can become closer to Him, and one day be with Him forever in Heaven

Grade 8

- Mother Mary is the Queen of Heaven. She is the Mother of God
- In the 400s A.D., the heresy of Nestorianism spread. Nestorians said that Mother Mary was only the Mother of the human Jesus. However, the truth is that Jesus is both fully human and fully God, so Mother Mary is fully His Mother. The Council of Ephesus defended this truth
- We venerate, or honor and respect, Mother Mary in the Church for Her role in salvation history as the Mother of God. We strive to imitate Her faithfulness to God, and pray for Her to lead us closer to Her Son, using sacramentals like the Miraculous Medal to remind us to pray
- A variety of symbols are used to represent Mother Mary, especially symbols of the Heavens, like the moon and stars
- The symbols on the Miraculous Medal remind us that Mother Mary will triumph, and that She can help us through challenges with Her prayers for us

Grade 9

- Mother Mary is full of grace, because She is sinless. Becoming closer to Mary, we open ourselves to receiving more graces from God, and can be more like Her in how She fully lived out the Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- We receive special graces at Confirmation. The graces we received at Holy Baptism, the sacrament representing birth, when we become children of God, are deepened
- Mother Mary was with the apostles in the upper room when they received the Gifts of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, known as the “birthday” of the Church. By giving birth to Jesus, She helped bring the Church into being. She continues to watch over everyone in the Church as our Mother
- Mother Mary is the Bride of the Holy Spirit, and the Mother of the Church
- Mother Mary shows us how to kindly and faithfully serve God in the Church. She is fully committed to God, to being faithful to His Commandments

**What vocabulary words did I practice?**

**Grade 7**

- Deposit of faith
- The Magnificat
- Visitation

**Grade 8**

- Assumption
- Nestorianism

**Grade 9**

- Actual grace
- Sanctifying grace

**What prayers did I practice?**

**Grade 7**

- Magnificat

**Grade 8**

- The Memorare

**Grade 9**

- The Memorare

**Checklist: Activity Completion**

**Grade 7**

- “Mother Mary’s Kindness: The Visitation”

**Grade 8**

- “The Miraculous Medal and Mary’s Kindness”

**Grade 9**

- “Full of Grace: Mother Mary’s Kindness”

**Quick Check:**

Tell us about your experience with these activities this month! Our May 2026 Google Form for Grades 7-9 is available here: <https://forms.gle/ffLgcytW6Tq8HAyt7>



## A Year of Prayer: Student Reflection

This year, monthly prayer calendars were integrated into our religious education activity books to organize prayer intentions for each month. We also included a prayer intention station in our religious education classes. As we culminate this year, and prepare for the next, take a few moments to reflect on your prayer life this year. Optional: this reflection may be shared and submitted with your monthly activities to provide us with feedback.

1. Looking back at your prayer intentions each month, what themes did you notice in your prayers?

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2. How did praying for these personal intentions help you to better know God? What did you learn about prayer from praying with others?

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3. How did you see God responding to your prayers over the religious education year?

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4. What did it mean to you to integrate your prayers into our parish family's prayers as you shared personal intentions at our classes, and as you prayed for our collective program/parish intentions?

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5. Going forward, how can you continue to apply your prayer practices/takeaways from this year, so that you can continue growing closer to God? What might you do differently, or what new prayer practices might you add?

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