

Handouts for Mary, Mother of Jesus

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Opening Prayer

Preparation

Choose a Marian hymn to include in this prayer service, along with the Gospel reading from the Marian event you are preparing for. Assign reading parts.

Invite everyone into a moment of silent reflection before you begin the prayer.

Opening Prayer

Leader

Mary means many things to many people. She is a great mystery of our faith. While it is an essential part of Catholic faith to honor Mary and her indispensable role in God's plan for our salvation, how we honor her varies from community to community and from person to person. Some will honor her by praying the rosary. Others will honor her by attending mass on Marian holy days. Still others may honor her by reflecting upon her as she is presented in the gospels, and others may simply carry on personal conversations with her as they rest in her unassuming presence much like they do with their own mothers. Today I invite you to begin your prayer by bringing to mind your own mother. Think about the woman who brought you into this world. Perhaps she is here with you. I'd like to ask you to bring her to your attention by saying her name out loud at this time.

Each time we say the name of our mother, we recall many memories of her. Depending upon who we are, those memories might be positive or negative or, more likely, a mix of both. The point is that we've had a deeply personal experience of this woman and that experience leaves us with many, many thoughts and feelings. We have another mother whose name is Mary. She is the mother of Jesus, our brother. By adoption, she is our mother. Let's face it. Our earthly mothers are not always perfect, but we have a heavenly mother who loves us perfectly. She loves us and wants to help us in our journey of faith in her son, Jesus. She wants nothing more than to give Christ to us and to give us to Christ. Like our own mother, we can get to know her personally. We can get to know Mary through the Bible, through the stories of others, and through prayer. Let us turn to God in prayer through the intercession of our mother, Mary.

Song

Play an appropriate song with a Marian theme on a CD/cassette player or use live music if possible. It is best to choose a song that you will use in an upcoming Marian liturgy.

Gospel Proclamation

Proclaim the gospel reading that will be used in the Marian liturgy for which you are preparing.

Intercessions

Leader

Our response to the intercessions will be:

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.

Reader One

We pray for all mothers in the world, that they will learn from Mary to be open to God's will no matter where it leads them. We pray to the Lord.

All

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.

Reader Two

We pray for all fathers in the world, that they will love and support the holiness in their wives as Joseph did for Mary. We pray to the Lord.

All

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.

Reader Three

We pray for all children in the world, that they will grow in wisdom, age, and favor before God and their communities as Jesus did under the loving care of his mother, Mary. We pray to the Lord.

All

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.

Reader Four

We pray for our parish family, that we will model our love for each other after the love of the holy family: Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. We pray to the Lord.

All

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.

Closing Prayer

Loving God, you chose to enter the world through the body of a woman. You chose to be loved and cared for by an earthly mother. What a blessing it is for us to have a God who knows the ways of family life. We thank you for choosing Mary as our mother who gives us comfort by praying for us unceasingly as an expression of her great love for us, her earthly children. May each of us come to know her and to love her as you know and love her. We ask this prayer in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Perfect Life

If my life were perfect...

I would have...

I would do...

I would be...

I would go...

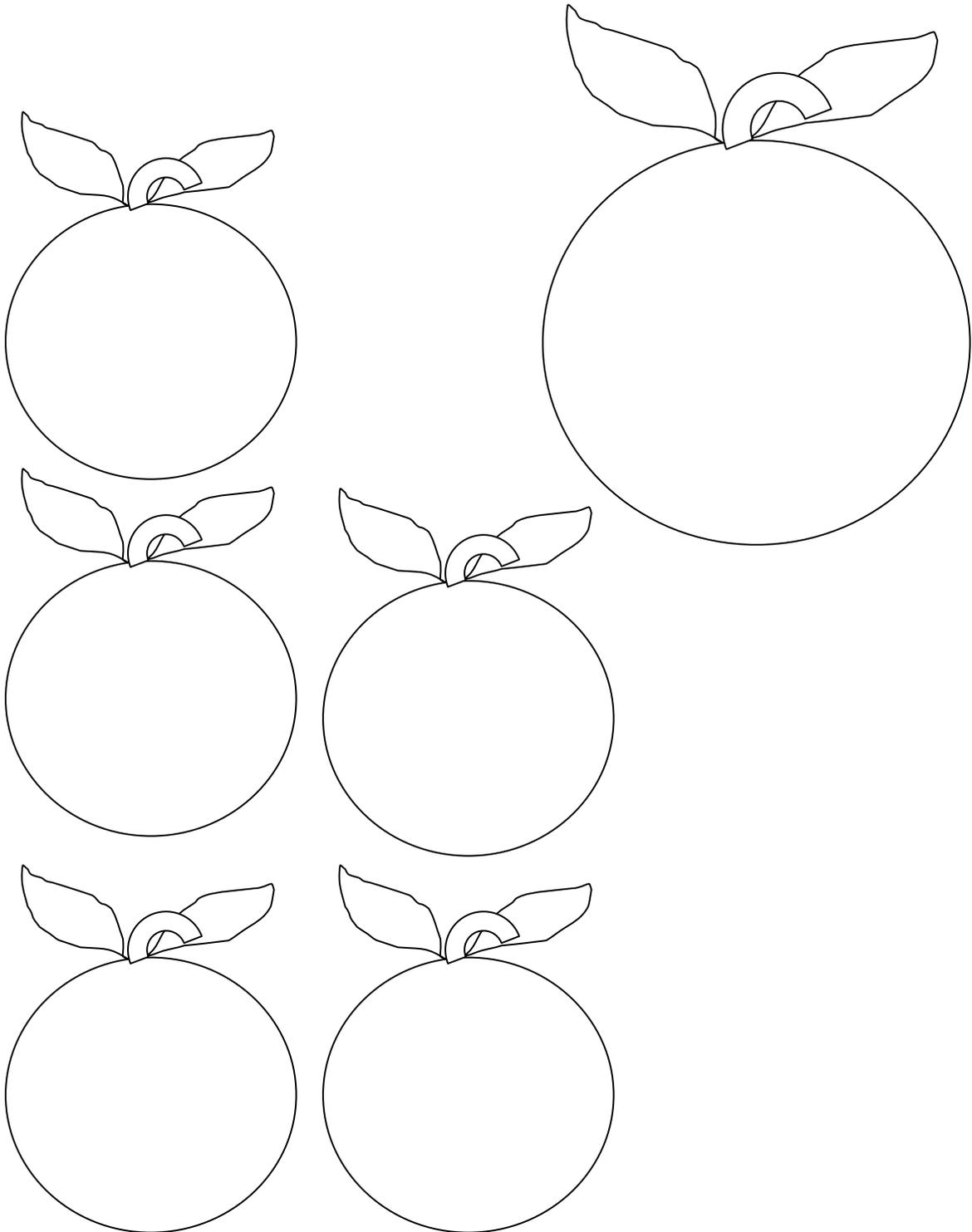
Fruit of the Womb

Explain the following to your child/table group:

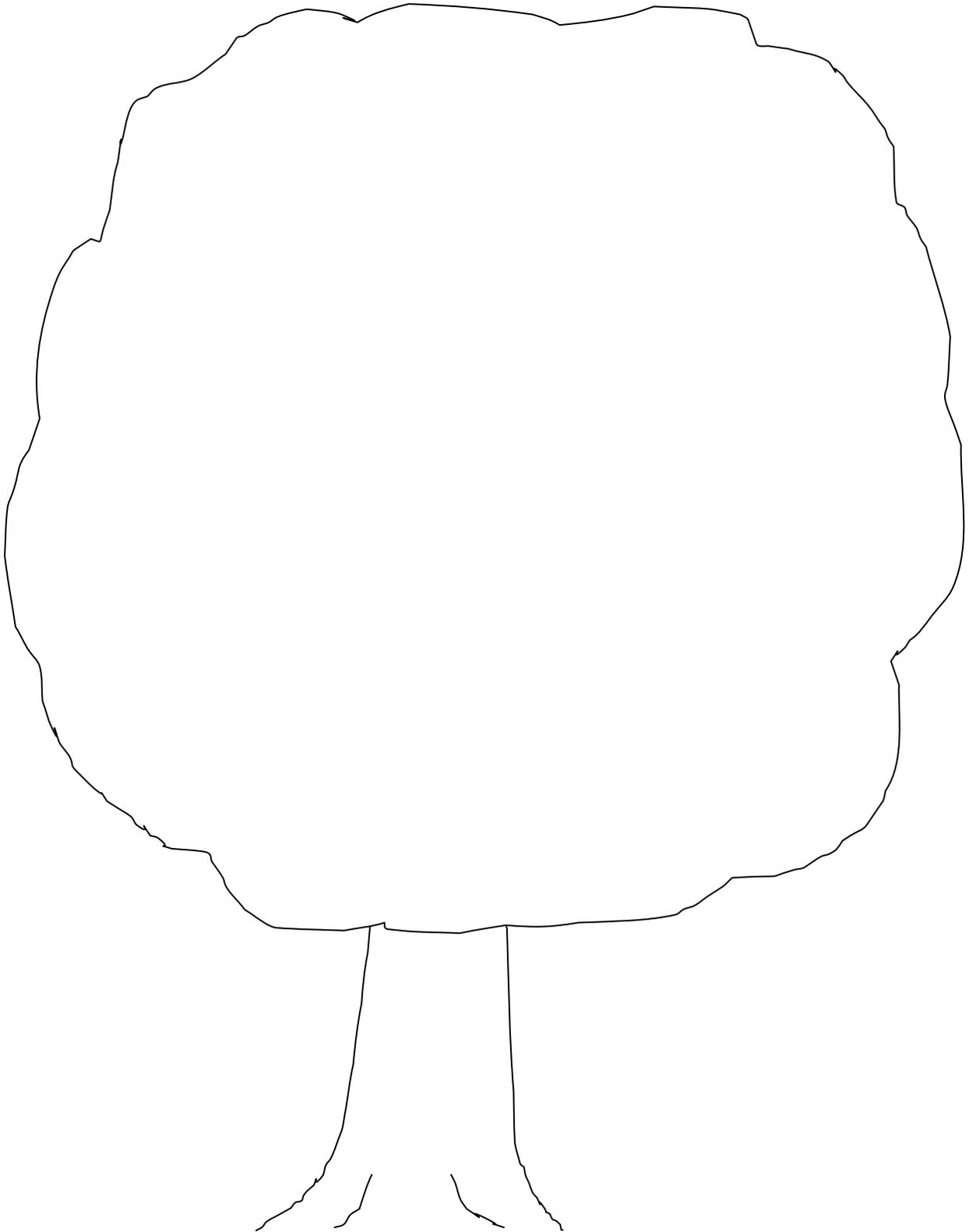
- Jesus Christ is our savior and he is perfect! We worship him like we worship God.
- Jesus was born like you and me, but because Jesus was perfect his mother also had to be perfect. By perfect, I mean that she and Jesus did not sin.
- Jesus and Mary never did anything on purpose to hurt their relationship with God and they always lived in loving ways.
- Jesus is sometimes called the fruit of Mary's womb. This means that Mary gave birth to Jesus.
- You are the fruit of my (your mother's) womb. It is kind of like saying a mother is a tree, and a child is the fruit that grows from that tree.
- We can also call Mary our mother because Mary is the mother of the Church. We are her adopted children. Jesus is the perfect fruit of Mary's womb, and we are adopted fruit of Mary's womb.

Fruit of the Womb

Work together to draw the face of Jesus on the large piece of fruit below, and then to draw the faces of each member of your family (and perhaps your friends as well) on the smaller pieces of fruit. Glue the pieces of fruit to the Mary Tree.



Mary Tree



Mary in Mark and Luke

Mark

Luke

Mark 3:20-21

20 and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat.

21 When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind."

Mark 3:31-35

31 Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him.

32 A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you."

33 And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?"

34 And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers!

35 Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

Luke does not include the scene described in Mark 3:20-21.

Luke 8:19-21

19 Then his mother and his brothers came to him, but they could not reach him because of the crowd.

20 And he was told, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you."

21 But he said to them, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it."

Gift or Curse?

Duplicate this page so that you will have enough gifts for each participant. Cut out these gifts and wrap them nicely in gift-wrap. Mark gifts for adults, teens and children. You may add gifts to the list, especially gifts that are particularly popular or unpopular in your community.

Video Game	A New Car
A New Wardrobe	A Full Toy Box
A Terrible Illness	Unemployment
You are paired up for a project at school with a person you don't like at all.	You're Grounded!
A Promotion at Work	A Relative Who Gets on your Nerves

Mary's Gifts

Directions: As you listen to Luke 1:26-38, draw or write your responses to the following three questions in the space provided after each question.

1. What physical gift(s) is/are given to Mary in this story?

2. What are Mary's personality gifts that help her to receive the physical gift(s)?

3. What are Mary's spiritual gifts that help her to receive the physical gift(s)?

My Gifts

A physical gift I have is...

This gift brings me joy because...

This gift is a challenge because...

I have a gifted personality because...

This gift brings me joy because...

This gift is a challenge because...

A spiritual gift I have is...

This gift brings me joy because...

This gift is a challenge because...

Visitation Reading

(Three-part reading based on Luke 1:39-56.)

Narrator

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry,

Elizabeth

Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.

Mary

My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.

Narrator

And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home. The Word of the Lord.

Magnificat

Luke 1:46-55

Leader

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all
generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

Left

His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

Right

He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their
hearts.

Left

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

Right

He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

All

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants
forever."

Closing Prayer Service

Opening Prayer

Leader

Let us close our session in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Mary is the mother of Christ, and the Church is the body of Christ. As members of the body of Christ, Mary is our spiritual mother. She is always with us offering consolation, guidance, encouragement, and grace to love her divine son more deeply each day. Let us pray that we will be open to her love and concern for us.

Gospel

John 2:1-5

Blessing of the Marian Sacramentals

Leader

"Do whatever he tells you." These are the last words that Mary speaks in the gospels. "Do whatever he tells you." This sums up the mission of Mary's life. Her goal is to turn people's hearts toward Jesus, her son. Nothing pleases Mary more than leading people to Jesus. Nothing pleases her more than seeing you and me follow in the ways of Jesus. All authentic devotion to Mary ends with a deeper relationship with Christ.

We now call each of you forward to have your Marian sacramentals blessed.

Start the meditative music.

*As each participant approaches a minister, the minister sprinkles some holy water on the sacramental and says the following blessing: *May the loving heart of Mary, our mother, turn your heart toward the heart of Jesus. Amen.**

Closing Prayer

Leader

Please join me in prayer. Hail Mary....

We pray that Mary, our mother, will intercede for us and attain for us the blessings of almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.