

2nd Grade Remote learning 2020-2021

Unit 3 – Session 13 – Mary and Joseph

Parents,

This session is about Mary and Joseph. Here is some vocabulary that may help you. This is not for your child but to help you as you explain this session to them.

- Annunciation – The Gospel story of the angel Gabriel appearing to Mary to announce that she would be the Mother of Jesus. The Church celebrates this feast every year on March 25. The Gospel story of the Annunciation can be found in Luke 1:26-38
- Assumption- According to tradition, at the end of Mary’s earthly life, she was assumed, or taken up, into Heaven, body and soul. Mary is now in Heaven with her Son, crowned Queen of Heaven and seated at His right hand. The Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Assumption every year at August 15.
- Fiat – “Let it be done.” Mary’s yes to God is her fiat. It is by her yes that Jesus entered the world through the Incarnation.
- Grace – The free gift from God of His life within us. Grace is necessary for us to go to Heaven. We receive grace in the Sacraments.
- Immaculate Conception – From the beginning of her life, the Virgin Mary was saved from Original Sin so that she could bear the Son of God within her. Mary was prepared by God to be a holy vessel for our salvation.
- Mother of God (Theotokos) – A title of Mary that describes her motherhood of Jesus, who is fully man and fully God. Theotokos is a Greek word that means “Mother of God”.

The students should learn

- Mary is the Mother of God.
- Mary’s yes to God played an instrumental role in our salvation and is an example of obedience to God for all of us.
- Mary was conceived without the stain of Original Sin (the Immaculate Conception) and remained sinless throughout her life.
- St. Joseph was Jesus’ earthly foster father. He lovingly cared for and protected his wife and her Son.

Here is what you need to do this week.

- Have your child turn to page 110 in their book and look at the picture.
 - What do they see?
 - Who is in the painting? (Mary, the angel Gabriel, the dove who represents the Holy Spirit)
 - Tell them this is a painting of the Annunciation by Blessed Fra Angelico.
 - Ask if they can tell us anything about the Annunciation
 - The Annunciation is when the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would be the mother of God. Mary said yes to God’s plan for her life.
 - Then read Luke 1:26-38 to them.
 - How does this painting of the Annunciation illustrate the Gospel story?
 - What did the angel Gabriel tell Mary when she was at first troubled by his words?
 - How did Mary respond to God’s plan for her?
 - Explain that the Annunciation is also when Jesus became fully Human and fully God and why that is so important to us today.
- Explain the following:
 - The Annunciation, the moment of Jesus’ Incarnation, must have been a difficult situation for Mary. Have your child imagine the situation: Mary was a young woman, and an angel appeared to her in her home. The angel told her that God was asking her to be the mother of His Son. Despite this, Mary had perfect faith in God. She said yes to His plan for her life!

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- When Mary said that she was the “handmaid of the Lord,” she was saying something very special. In Jesus’ time, wealthy people had many servants in their household. A handmaid was the personal servant of the head of the household and would do all that her master asked of her. When Mary said that she was the handmaid of the Lord, she was really saying that she was the servant of God, ready and willing to do all that He would ask of her. She was willing to become the Mother of God!
- We call Mary’s yes to God her fiat. The word fiat means “let it be done.” Mary was completely obedient to God, allowing His will to be done in her life. Because of her obedience and because of her yes to God, Mary played an important part in our salvation. Because she said yes to God’s plan, the Incarnation happened through her and our salvation came into the world!
- Mary is the perfect example for us for how to be a follower of Jesus. The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes Mary as “the Church’s model of faith and charity” no. 967. That means that she shows us, all the faithful of the Church, how to believe in and follow her Son, Jesus, and how to love. The greatest example Mary gives us is her yes to God — her fiat — and complete obedience to God. Her yes to God’s plan shows us how to respond to God in our own lives — by saying yes to Him too!
- Have your child go on the app and draw a picture about how they can say Yes to God.
- Ask your child to share what their favorite things are about their mothers.
 - Explain that Jesus’ mother was a good mother to Him too. She cared for Him as He grew up, cooked for him, helped him get dressed, taught Him how to do things, cared for Him and when he was sick or hurt was there for him. She even would have taught Him how to pray!
 - We know from the Bible that Mary was holy and that she was faithful to God and His plan for her. We also know that she raised Jesus to be faithful too.
 - Continue to explain that one of Mary’s titles is Mother of God. Ask why they think this is a good title for Mary. (Jesus is God, Mary was his mother, therefore, she was the mother of God)
- Have your child go on the app and read about the Immaculate Conception and then fill in the blanks.
- Explain the following:
 - Jesus is God’s Son and God loves His Son very much. Just as we care for and protect the things that we love that are important to us, God ensured that His Son, who He loved the most, was cared for and protected. And so He gave His Son an earthly father, St. Joseph, to care for Him as a human father, to protect Him, and to raise Him.
 - Note: St. Joseph is like a foster father because Jesus did not have a biological earthly father. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit — as Scripture tells us and as we affirm in the Nicene Creed. Therefore, God the Father is the true Father of Jesus, from whom Jesus receives His divinity. And Mary is His true human mother, from whom He receives His humanity.
 - St. Joseph was given two great tasks by God, which he carried out with complete faithfulness:
 - 1. He was the husband of Mary, the Mother of God, and
 - 2. he was the earthly father of Jesus. Like any other earthly father, Joseph was tasked to love and care for his family, to represent God the Father to his wife and to his son, to be a model of manhood and fatherly love, and to be firm and strong in raising His son. These are challenging tasks for any husband and father, let alone the husband of Mary, who was free from sin, and the foster father of Jesus, who is God Himself. And yet, despite these challenges, Joseph did what God asked of Him with complete faith and obedience. His presence in the Gospels is one of complete and total faith, of obedience to God, of contemplation of what God asks of him, and of action, or carrying out God’s will. Joseph was a workingman (a carpenter) and far from rich. But he did everything in his power to be a good husband and father and to care for and protect Mary and Jesus.
 - D. Ask your child if they knew that Jesus spent the first four years of His life growing up in Egypt. This story from the Gospel of Matthew is a great example of St. Joseph’s faith and obedience to God, and of his actions to care for and protect his wife, Mary, and Jesus.

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- Have your child navigate in the app to Rest on the Flight into Egypt, with the painting by Luc-Olivier Merson. Give your child a few moments to observe the painting. Then ask the following questions:
 - Who are the figures in the painting? Mary, Baby Jesus, and Joseph.
 - How does this painting show the protective care of Joseph? He has Mary and Jesus sleep in the nooks of a large statue for protection while he sleeps at the foot of the statue near the fire to keep watch.
 - What do you notice about Jesus in this painting?
 - How does this reflect what we have already learned about Jesus and the Incarnation? Jesus is giving off light. As we have learned, Jesus is the Light of the World shining in the darkness. He came into the world to reveal the glory of God and to save us from sin.
- Read aloud Matthew 2:13-16 and 19-23.
 - Point out to your child that this story takes place shortly after Jesus was born.
 - The Wise Men, or Magi, had just visited Jesus with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and had already left.
 - The story mentions a man named Herod. Herod was the king of Judea, which we now call Israel. It is the land where Jesus was born. Herod had sent the Magi to spy for him, which they ultimately refused to do. Herod was afraid of the birth of the new king, Jesus, and wanted to kill Him.
 - Then ask the following questions:
 - How does the story of the flight into Egypt show us that St. Joseph was faithful and obedient to God? He did exactly what God asked of him.
 - How does the story show us how St. Joseph cared for and protected Mary and Jesus? He immediately took them to Egypt when the angel appeared to him. He stayed in Egypt with them until the threat had passed, and then they returned. Even when they returned, Joseph took precautions and settled in Galilee instead of in Judea because he still feared Herod's son.
- Conclude by telling that St. Joseph is the patron saint of the universal Church. That means that just as he loved, cared for, and protected Mary and Jesus — the Holy Family — St. Joseph loves, cares for, and protects the family of God — the entire Church around the world!