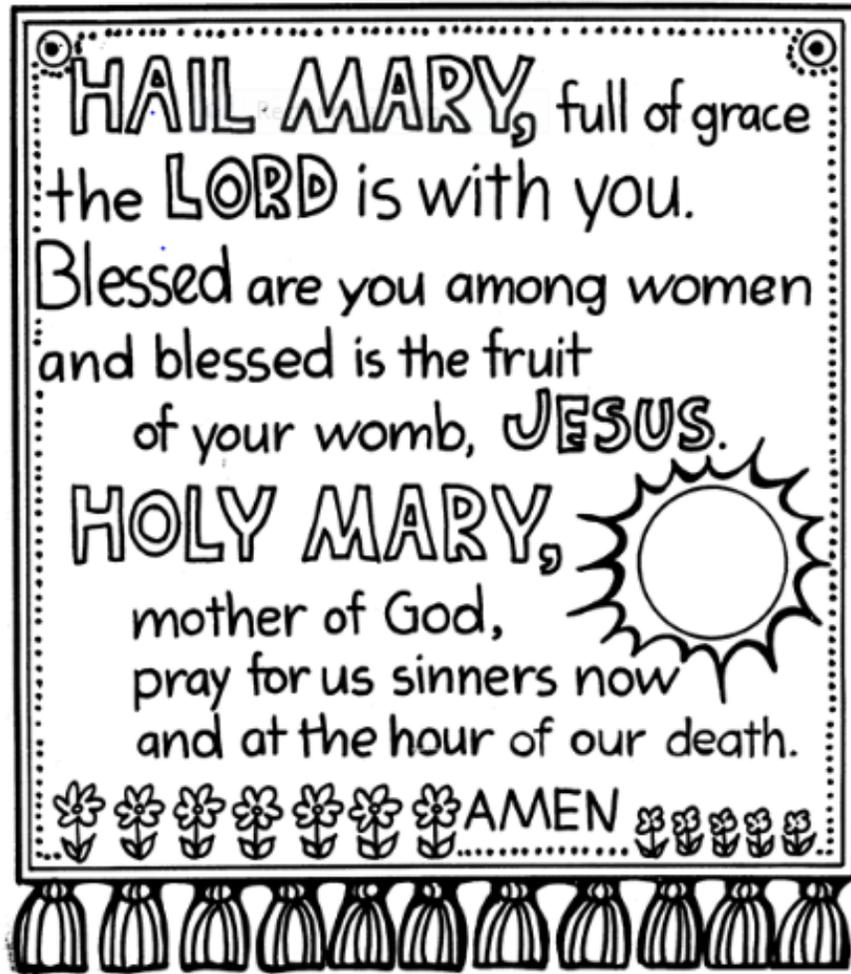


May is Mary's Month!

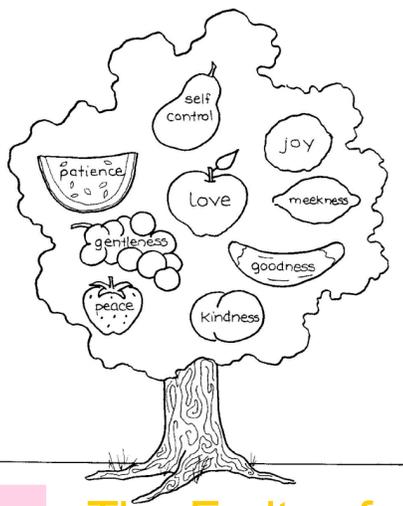


During the month of May, we give special honor to **Mary**.

Suggestions for celebrating Mary:

- Do you have images or statues of Mary? Put them in a special place of honor and decorate it with flowers.
- If you don't have any, you can do an internet search for images of Mary to make your own..
- Plant some *marigolds* in your garden!
- Have a family [May Crowning](#).
- Visit the Mary Garden at church - behind Genesis Hall - and say a Hail Mary, the Angelus, or a decade of the rosary.
- Include one of the "Mary" prayers we've learned in your family prayers this month - the Hail Mary, Angelus, or rosary.
- Find resources for praying the rosary [here](#).





The Fruits of the Holy Spirit

When you respond to the power of the Holy Spirit within you, you become like a tree that bears good fruit. Your actions, like the fruit of the tree, become signs that tell others the Spirit is at work.

Love – One of the most powerful signs of the Spirit's presence is a loving heart that genuinely cares for everyone. This fruit shines forth when we reach out to those in need, including the poor, the sick, or victims of injustice.

Joy - Joy is beyond happiness. It does not depend on what is happening at the moment, but on a deep relationship with God

Peace - Peace is an unshakable calm rooted in trust the God is present in good times and bad; we realize that God never leaves.

Patience - When you are patient, you have the staying power to work and wait for what is right.

Kindness - Kindness is considering other peoples' feelings first, and showing concern through word and action.

Generosity - Generous people don't cling selfishly to things, but freely share their gifts, time & possessions.

Faithfulness - You are true to your promises to God and to others, no matter what happens.

Gentleness - When you are gentle, you tread lightly so you don't trample on other people's feelings.

Self-control - Being in control of your life means working to overcome temptations, choosing what is right, and not being swayed by peer pressure.

Adapted from "Living in the Spirit", © Be My Disciples, RCLBenziger and "Lessons & Activities on What Makes Us Catholic", © 2015 Janet Schaeffler, OP

Catholic Calendar Connections

May 1st - Thank someone who's job makes a difference in your life in honor of **St. Joseph the Worker**.

May 3rd - **Sts. Philip and James** were two of Jesus' twelve disciples. On their feast day, pray for all the leaders in the Church who help us to know and follow Jesus.

May 10th - **How will you celebrate your mom on Mother's Day?** How about saying a special prayer of thanksgiving for her? It's also the feast of **St. Damien**, who bravely served those with leprosy (a very contagious skin disease) on the island of Molo-kai, Hawaii. Today, pray for all those diagnosed with COVID-19, and for those who care for them.

May 13th - Pray one decade (or more!) of the rosary in honor of Mary, **Our Lady of Fatima**, to celebrate the day she first appeared to the shepherd children in Portugal.

May 15th - Honor **St. Isidore the Farmer** with a trip to a farmer's market or greenhouse, or by planting something in your garden.

May 21st - This is the traditional feast of the **Ascension of the Lord**, although we will celebrate it on Sunday, the 24th. Read Matthew 18:16-20. What command did Jesus give his disciples? What promise did he give them?

May 26th - **St. Philip Neri**, the patron saint of humor and joy, was known for his cheerful spirit that attracted many to listen to him and his teachings about Jesus. Share your favorite jokes with each other.

May 30th - **St. Joan of Arc** is the patron saint of those in the military. Pray today for all those who seek to bring peace to our world.

May 31st - Wear **RED** as you pray on the Feast of **Pentecost**.

Celebrate the Holy Spirit!

Pentecost is called the **Birthday of the Church**, because on this day the disciples boldly were sent out to proclaim the Good News to all. Celebrate by putting birthday candles in any available food and singing "*Happy Birthday to us.*"

Take time to read the dramatic story of the first Pentecost in Acts 2:1-13.

At Pentecost the Holy Spirit appeared as wind and tongues of flame. In other places in the Bible the Spirit is referred to as breath. How many ways can you find to celebrate fire and wind/breath this month? Fly a kite? Blow up balloons? Make paper fans? Eat by candlelight? Cook over a campfire?

