

RCIA – Symbolon Lesson 9: Mary and the Saints
***We Believe* – Chapter 6: Jesus Gives Us Communion with the Saints**
Devotion: Rosary



- **Opening Prayer:** **The Hail Holy Queen (The Salve Regina)**
Hail, holy Queen, mother of mercy,
our life, our sweetness, and our hope.
To you we cry, poor banished children of Eve;
to you we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.
Turn, then, most gracious advocate,
your eyes of mercy toward us;
and after this, our exile,
show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.
V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

- **Song:** Immaculate Mary

- **Catechism references for further reflection: Mary**

- Immaculate Conception: Mary is conceived without sin: CCC 487-494
- Assumption: Mary's Assumption into Heaven. CCC 966-970
- Mother of God: Mary, the Mother of God. CCC 495
- Mary's perpetual virginity: CCC 496-507
- Devotion to the Blessed Mother: CCC 971-972

Catechism references for further reflection: The Saints

- Canonization of Saints: Those who lead holy lives were formerly named saints. CCC 828
- Communion of Saints: All who are joined to Christ on earth, in heaven, and in purgatory. .CCC 946-962

- Scripture:

Luke 1:28-38 (Annunciation)

Luke 1: 39-45 (Visitation)

- Questions for Discussion:

- Why do Catholics believe Mary remained a virgin all her life if the Bible says Jesus had "brothers and sisters"?
- What do Catholics really mean when they say they pray to Mary and the Saints?
- Why do Catholics honor Mary and the Saints?
- Why are the Saint's prayers so powerful?
- Can we be drawn closer to God through the Saints? How?
- What are the four Catholic Dogmas about Mary?
- What do they teach us about Jesus' and the Father's plan for salvation?
- Who is your patron Saint? ,Why?
- Are we all called to be Saints or are just some very special people given this call?

- Rosary

- Weekly Gospel Reading: 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time (Mk 12: 28b-34)

One of the scribes came to Jesus and asked him, "Which is the first of all the commandments?" Jesus replied, "The first is this: *Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.* The second is this: *You shall love your neighbor as yourself.* There is no other commandment greater than these."

The scribe said to him, "Well said, teacher. You are right in saying, 'He is One and there is no other than he.' And 'to love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself' is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."

And when Jesus saw that he answered with understanding, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And no one dared to ask him any more questions.

- Closing Prayer.