

# Advent, Liturgical Year Hail Mary, Titles and Feast of the Virgin Mary



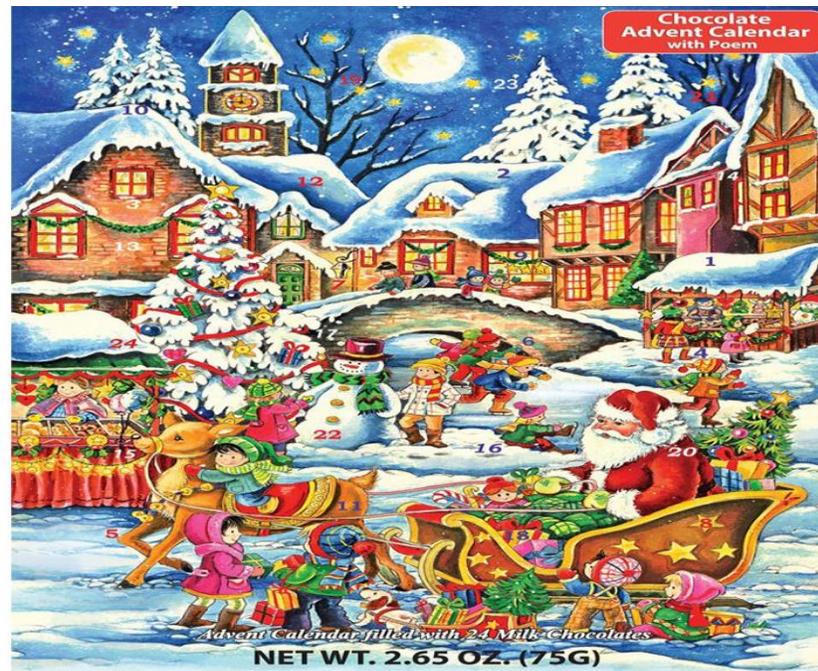
# Advent

- ▶ Advent is a season observed in Christian churches as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas and the return of Jesus at the Second Coming.
- ▶ Advent is the beginning of the Catholic liturgical year.

# Advent Practices

- ▶ Keeping and advent Calendar
- ▶ Lighting an Advent wreath
- ▶ Praying an Advent daily devotional
- ▶ Erecting a Christmas Tree
- ▶ Setting up other Christmas Decorations
- ▶ WARM HEARTS-WARMING HANDS
- ▶ Giving Tree
- ▶ Gifts and Flowers to elderly and sick

► Keeping and Advent Calendar



# Advent Wreath



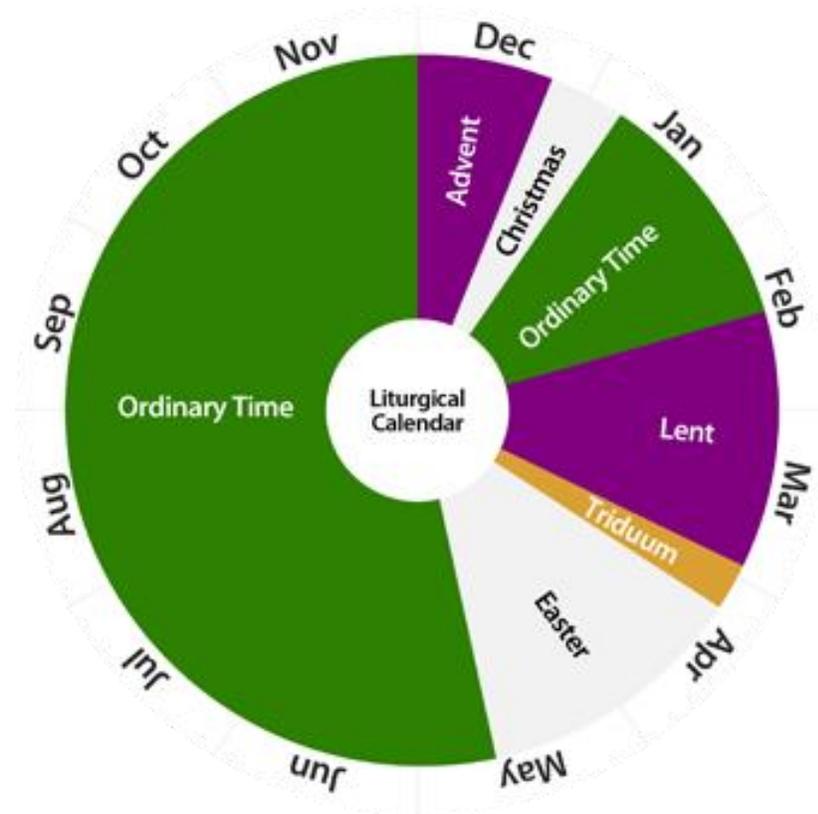
# Colors

- ▶ 1st, 2nd, 4th Sunday are purple traditionally associated with solemnity and somberness
- ▶ 3rd Sunday called Gaudete, rose may be used instead referencing a sign of Joy
- ▶ The wreath and candles are full of symbolism tied to the Christmas season. The four candles represent the 4 weeks of Advent. The lighting of the 4 candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding Our Lord's First Coming into the world and the anticipation of His Second Coming. The light signifies Christ, the light of the world.

# Colors

- ▶ The evergreen have a traditional meaning which can be adapted to our faith: the laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering ; pine, holly, and yew, means immortality; and cedar , strength and healing. The prickly leaves remind us of the crown of thorns.
- ▶ The wreath itself, which is made of various evergreens, signifies continuous life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life we find in Christ.

# Liturgical Year



# The Seasons of the Liturgical Calendar

- ▶ Advent
- ▶ Christmas
- ▶ Ordinary Time
- ▶ Lent
- ▶ Triduum
- ▶ Easter
- ▶ Ordinary

# Hail Mary



## The Hail Mary

Hail Mary,  
full of grace,  
the Lord is with thee;  
blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy  
womb, Jesus.

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

Amen



# Hail Mary

- ▶ Hail Mary sometimes called the “Angelic Salutation” is the foundation of such famous prayers as the Rosary and Angelus. It has inspired much fervent devotion to Jesus and His Blessed Mother.
- ▶ Catholics don’t worship Mary we honor her; and we don’t pray to her, we ask her to pray for us.
- ▶ St Pope John Paul II explains that the first half of the Hail Mary expresses the wonder of heaven and earth, over the mystery of Christ in the womb of the Virgin Mary.
- ▶ Mary’s path towards Heaven began “with the “yes” she spoke in Nazareth, in reply to the heavenly messenger, who announced to her God’s will for her.

# Hail Mary

- ▶ Why was Mary given this privilege? Because of her connection to our Lord. She was his Mother and at the same time he was her Savior. As Catholics, we believe that Mary was *proactively* redeemed.
- ▶ With Him all things are possible, and he has the power to extend redemption to Mary before she was conceived in the womb of St. Anne. The Church also teaches that Mary was free from personal sin as well because her nature was spotlessly incorrupt as result of her Immaculate Conception.

# Immaculate Conception



# Immaculate Conception

- ▶ “Mary is ‘the most excellent fruit of redemption’: from the first instant of her conception, she was totally preserved from the stain of original sin and she remained pure from all personal sin throughout her life.” (CCC 508)
- ▶ For many, the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception is the hardest to believe of all the Church’s teachings. The idea of Mary having been completely sinless can be hard to believe and even misinterpreted
- ▶ Pope Pius IX infallibly defined the dogma of the Immaculate Conception on Dec. 8, 1854.
- ▶ “The Most Holy Virgin Mary was, in the very first moment of her conception, by a unique gift of grace and privilege of Almighty God and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ the Redeemer of mankind, preserved free from all stain of original sin.” (*Ineffabilis Deus*, Apostolic Constitution of Pope Pius IX on the Immaculate Conception)

# Assumption of Mary



# Assumption of Mary

- ▶ The Assumption of Mary was declared a dogma (a divinely revealed truth) of the Catholic Church by Pope Pius XII in 1950 when he proclaimed, in a document entitled *Munificentissimus Deus*, “The Immaculate Mother of God, the ever-virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heaven.”
- ▶ Catholics worldwide meditate on the Assumption of Mary when praying the glorious mysteries of the [Rosary](#), and on its feast day, August 15th. This prayer below can help put you in a fitting frame of mind when reflecting on this wondrous event:

# Assumption of Mary

- ▶ Belief in the Assumption of Mary rests on tradition and on solid theological grounds, although nothing is written in scripture, or otherwise known historically for certain, about it. Theologians over the centuries have all agreed that it was only fitting that the Blessed Virgin Mary joined her divine Son in both body *and* soul in her Assumption into Heaven!
- ▶ After all, she was born uniquely without Original Sin and lived “full of grace” (Luke 1:28), sharing in Christ’s victory over Satan, sin and death as His Blessed Mother. Thus Our Lord would not subject her body to the corruption and decay that would occur in a tomb over time!

# Assumption of Mary

- ▶ So what does the dogma of the Assumption of Mary into Heaven mean for us on a more down-to-earth level? It gives us great hope that, as we strive to live in our Lord's grace and to do His will, with Mary's assistance, we might share in His resurrection someday!
- ▶ The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* mentions how Mary anticipates the resurrection of *all* members of Christ's body (CCC974). She intercedes continually with her son on our behalf for our salvation. (That's why it never hurts to call on her, and thank her, for her help and her graces in prayers such as the Rosary!)
- ▶ After we pass away, at the Last Judgment, may Christ find us worthy to share Eternal Life with Him like Mary, in both body (glorified like His!) *and* soul, so that, as he told His apostles once, "my joy might be in you and your joy might be complete" (John 15:11).

# Our Lady of Guadalupe



# Our Lady of Guadalupe

- ▶ On December 9, 1531, in Mexico, Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego, a poor humble Aztec Indian who had recently converted to the Catholic faith. She asked him to go to the Bishop and tell him to build a church where she said “I will show and offer all of my love, my compassion, my help and my protection to my people.” Juan Diego did as she asked, but the Bishop asked for a sign that this message was really from Our Lady.
- ▶ Mary granted his request. On December 12, she showed Juan where the most beautiful Castilian roses were and told him to gather them. It was a miracle that the roses were there and in bloom because there was frost on the ground, and the ground was an infertile place where only cactus and thistles grew. After he gathered them, she helped arrange them in his tilma, or poncho, and told him to show them to the Bishop.



# Our Lady of Guadalupe

- ▶ When he brought them to the Bishop, the Bishop was amazed at the roses, but was even more amazed at what began to happen to Juan Diego's tilma. Right before their very eyes, the image of Our Lady began to form on the cloth. The picture of Mary was beautiful and the Bishop fell to his knees. He had the church built at her request.
- ▶ The tilma is still intact after 470 years. The colors have not faded and the cloth has not deteriorated. It has been on display in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe for all this time.

# Our Lady of Guadalupe

- ▶ The manner in which Our Lady appeared on the tilma was very significant to the Aztec Indians. God had her dressed in a way that they would understand who she was. She was dressed in royal clothes that showed that she was very important, perhaps a queen. She also had the symbol of the cross at her neck which was the same symbol the Spaniards had on their ships and in the churches
- ▶ they built. She had a sash tied around her waist which meant that she was with child, for this was the way the Aztec women dressed when they were pregnant. And on her beautiful dress were all sorts of designs and flowers. But there was one flower on her dress that was very significant. It had only four petals. To the Aztecs, the four petal flower was the symbol for the true God, the God above all gods. This flower was located on her abdomen, right over the place where Jesus was growing inside of her. The Aztecs immediately understood that this was the mother of the true God!

# Our Lady of Guadalupe

- ▶ This appearance of Our Lady of Guadalupe was very important to the history of our continent. You see, the Aztec Indians and the Spaniards were on the brink of war. The Aztec Indians' culture and religion were very different from the Spaniards. They worshipped gods, to whom they would offer human sacrifices, often killing 50,000 people a year. The Spaniards, who were Catholic, were naturally disgusted by this. But they were cruel to the Aztecs too, treating them like animals and sometimes killing them for no reason. If a war had occurred, it would have been very brutal and the Spaniards and Christianity would have been totally wiped out.



# Our Lady of Guadalupe

- ▶ Mary's appearance changed everything, however. It helped the Indians to embrace Christianity and it helped the Spaniards to treat the Indians with respect and as human beings. In the course of seven years, 6,000,000 Indians converted to the Catholic faith. This was the biggest conversion in the history of the Church! This is why Our Lady of Guadalupe is the Patroness of the Americas. Juan Diego, the humble man to whom she appeared, was canonized in the summer of 2002.
- ▶ Mary's appearance also put an end to the worship of stone gods and the ritual of human sacrifice. We pray for Mary's help today to bring an end to the human sacrifice of God's children through abortion and to convert non-believers. Our Lady of Guadalupe is also called the Patroness of the Unborn.

# Our Lady of Lourdes



# Our Lady of Lourdes

- ▶ **Our Lady of Lourdes** is a Roman Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary venerated in honour of the Marian apparitions that occurred in 1858 in the vicinity of Lourdes in France. The first of these is the apparition of 11 February 1858, when 14-year old Bernadette Soubirous told her mother that a "lady" spoke to her in the cave of Massabielle (a kilometre and a half (1 mi) from the town) while she was gathering firewood with her sister and a friend. Similar apparitions of the "Lady" were reported on seventeen occasions that year, until the climax revelation of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception took place.
- ▶ After church investigations confirmed her visions, a large church was built at the site. Lourdes is now a major Marian pilgrimage site: within France, only Paris has more hotels than Lourdes.

# Our Lady of Lourdes

- ▶ There are also several similarities between the [apparition at La Salette](#), near [Grenoble](#), and Lourdes. La Salette is many hundreds of kilometres from Lourdes, and the events at La Salette predate those in Lourdes by 12 years. However, Virgin Mary's appearance of La Salette was tall and maternal (not petite and gentle like her Lourdes apparition) and had a darker, more threatening series of messages. It is not certain if Soubirous was aware of the events at La Salette.
- ▶ The location of the spring was described to Soubirous by an apparition of Our Lady of Lourdes on 25 February 1858. Since that time many thousands of pilgrims to Lourdes have followed the instruction of Our Lady of Lourdes to "drink at the spring and wash in it".

# Our Lady of Lourdes

- ▶ Soubirous described that the apparition as dressed in a flowing white robe, with a blue sash around her waist. This was the uniform of a religious group called the Children of Mary, which, on account of her poverty, Soubirous was not permitted to join (although she was admitted after the apparitions).<sup>[17]</sup> Her Aunt Bernarde was a long-time member.
- ▶ The statue that currently stands in the niche within the grotto of Massabielle was created by the Lyonnais sculptor Joseph-Hugues Fabisch in 1864. Although it has become an iconographic symbol of Our Lady of Lourdes, it depicts a figure which is not only older and taller than Soubirous's description, but also more in keeping with orthodox and traditional representations of the Virgin Mary. On seeing the statue, Soubirous was profoundly disappointed with this representation of her vision.

# Our Lady of Fatima



# Our Lady of Fatima

- ▶ Beginning in the spring of 1917, the children reported apparitions of an Angel, and starting in May 1917, apparitions of the [Virgin Mary](#), whom the children described as "the Lady more brilliant than the Sun". The children reported a prophecy that prayer would lead to an end to the [Great War](#), and that on 13 October that year the Lady would reveal her identity and perform a miracle "so that all may believe."<sup>[5]</sup> Newspapers reported the prophecies, and many pilgrims began visiting the area. The children's accounts were deeply controversial, drawing intense criticism from both local secular and religious authorities. A provincial administrator briefly took the children into custody, believing the prophecies were politically motivated in opposition to the officially secular [First Portuguese Republic](#) established in 1910.<sup>[6]</sup> The events of 13 October became known as the [Miracle of the Sun](#).

# Our Lady of Fatima

- ▶ In the spring and summer of 1916, nine-year-old [Lúcia dos Santos](#) and her cousins [Francisco and Jacinta Marto](#) were herding sheep at the [Cova da Iria](#) near their home village of [Aljustrel](#) in the parish of [Fátima, Portugal](#). They later said they were visited three times by an apparition of an angel. They said the angel, who identified himself as the "[Angel of Peace](#)" and "[Guardian Angel of Portugal](#)", taught them prayers, to make sacrifices, and to spend time in adoration of the Lord.
- ▶ On 13 May 1917, the children reported seeing a woman "brighter than the sun, shedding rays of light clearer and stronger than a crystal goblet filled with the most sparkling water and pierced by the burning rays of the sun."<sup>[7]</sup> The woman wore a white mantle edged with gold and held a rosary in her hand. She asked them to devote themselves to the Holy Trinity and to pray "the Rosary every day, to bring peace to the world and an end to the war".<sup>[7]</sup> While the children had never told anyone about seeing the angel, Jacinta told her family about seeing the brightly lit woman. Lúcia had earlier said that the three should keep this experience private. Jacinta's disbelieving mother told neighbors about it as a joke, and within a day the whole village knew of the children's vision.<sup>[8]</sup>

# Our Lady of Fatima

- ▶ Francisco and Jacinta Marto died in the international [flu pandemic that began in 1918](#) and swept the world. Francisco Marto died at home on 4 April 1919, at the age of ten. Jacinta died at the age of nine in hospital on 20 February 1920. They are buried at the [Sanctuary of Fátima](#). They were beatified by [Pope John Paul II](#) on 13 May 2000 and canonized by [Pope Francis](#) on 13 May 2017. <sup>[24]</sup> Their mother Olímpia Marto said that her children predicted their deaths many times to her and to curious pilgrims in the brief period of time after the Marian apparitions. <sup>[25]</sup>

# Our Lady of Fatima

- ▶ In 1936 and again in 1941, Sister Lúcia said that the Virgin Mary had predicted the deaths of her two friends during the second apparition on 13 June 1917. According to Lúcia's 1941 account, on 13 June, Lúcia asked the Virgin if the three children would go to heaven when they died. She said that she heard Mary reply, "Yes, I shall take Francisco and Jacinta soon, but you will remain a little longer, since Jesus wishes you to make me known and loved on Earth. He wishes also for you to establish devotion in the world to my Immaculate Heart."[\[26\]](#)

# Our Lady of Fatima

- ▶ According to Sister Lúcia, the Virgin Mary promised that the Consecration of Russia would lead to Russia's conversion and an era of peace.<sup>[8]</sup> At the time the supposed request for the consecration of Russia was made, however, the Bolsheviks had not yet taken control of Russia.
- ▶ At the end of the Second Vatican Council, Pope Paul VI renewed the consecration of Pius XII to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In an unusual gesture, he announced his own pilgrimage to the sanctuary on the fiftieth anniversary of the first apparition. On 13 May 1967, he prayed at the shrine together with Sister Lúcia.