

Prayers for the Annunciation of Mary

Scripture Focus: Luke 1:26–38 (Announcement of the Birth of Jesus)

Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us begin our prayer with the Sign of the Cross.

All: In the name of the Father . . .

Leader: In this Gospel passage, we learn that an angel was sent to Mary to give her a very special message. Mary was going to be the mother of God's Son, and she was to name him Jesus!

Reader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Reader then reads the Scripture passage above from Breakthrough! The Bible for Young Catholics.

Leader: Mary said yes to God, and she can help us when we pray, "Mary, help us to say yes to God."

All: Mary, help us to say yes to God.

Leader: Saying yes to God means following Jesus and keeping on the right path, no matter what.

All: Mary, help us to say yes to God.

Leader: Sometimes life is hard. Sometimes we have problems at home, or we have a hard time in school. During hard times, it is more important than ever to follow Jesus and stay on the right path. It is also important to share our problems with our parents or another trusted adult.

All: Mary, help us to say yes to God.

Leader: Sometimes life brings wonderful surprises. We go on a family vacation, or grandparents come for a visit, or we celebrate a birthday. During happy times, we follow Jesus and stay on the right path.

All: Mary, help us to say yes to God.

Leader: Each and every day, in each and every way,

All: Mary, help us to say yes to God.

Closing Prayer

Leader: We are happy today, because we share in Mary's happiness at being chosen to be the Mother of God. Let us pray the prayer that especially honors Mary and asks her help:

All: Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.

Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

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



Ritual Guide

Opening Prayer

Preparation

Choose one or more readers to read the passage from the Gospel of Luke.

Optional: Choose an appropriate song to begin and end the prayer.

Gather

Gather the group in the Bible corner. Distribute the prayer handouts. Briefly rehearse the prayer response.

Pray

Begin with the Sign of the Cross as indicated. Introduce the reading with the words given, or in your own words. At the close of the prayer, collect the prayer handouts. Set them aside for the closing prayer (if the middle schoolers do not yet know the Hail Mary by heart).

(An activity for the Annunciation of Mary can be found in chapter 10 of the *Breakthrough! Leader Guide*.)

Closing Prayer

This ancient prayer is based on the angel's words to Mary at the Annunciation.

Gather

Gather the group in the Bible corner. Explain that the closing prayer is a well-known prayer to Mary. Distribute the handouts, but encourage those who know it by heart to set aside their papers. (Allow those who do not yet know the Hail Mary to take the prayer handouts home. You may want to pray this prayer frequently with the group as an aid to learning it by heart.)

Pray

Lead the group in prayer.

Optional: End with the song you chose for the opening prayer.

