

## Mother of Jesus – May

**Call to Prayer:** “The silent witness to the events of Jesus’s Passion and Resurrection was Mary. She stood beside the Cross. She did not fold in the face of pain. Her faith made her strong. In the broken heart of the Mother, the flame of hope was kept ever burning. Let us ask her to help us, to fully accept the Easter proclamation of the Resurrection so as to embody it in the concreteness of our daily lives.”

Pope Francis Franciscan Minute Meditations, 4/15/23



**Leader:** O God, open our lips     **ALL:** and our mouths will proclaim your praise.

**ALL:** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning so now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia!

### Hymn and Crowning (if desired) “On This Day, O Beautiful Mother”

On this day, O beau - ti - ful Moth - er, On this day we give thee our love;  
Near thee, Ma - don - na, fond - ly we hov - er, Trus - ting thy gen - tle care to prove.  
1. On this day we ask to share, Dear - est Moth - er, thy sweet care; Aid us  
ere our feet a - stray Wan - der from thy guid - ing way.

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**Reading:** “*Mary treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart!*” (Luke 2:19)

In these words, Luke describes the attitude with which Mary took in all that she experienced ... Far from trying to understand or master the situation, Mary is the woman who treasured, that is to say, protected and guarded in her heart, the presence of God in the life of the people. Deep within, she learned to listen to the heartbeat of her Son and that in turn taught her, throughout her life, to discover God’s heartbeat in history. She learned how to be a mother and in that learning process, she gave Jesus the beautiful experience of knowing what it is to be a Son. In Mary, the eternal Word not only became flesh, but also learned to recognize the maternal tenderness of God. With Mary, Jesus, the God-Child, learned to listen to the yearnings, the troubles, the joys and the hopes of the people...”

adapted from Diane M. Houdek, The Peace of Christmas: Quiet Reflections from Pope Francis

**Response: ALL:** Mothers, even at the worst times, are capable of sharing tenderness, self-sacrifice, unconditional love and the strength of hope. Mary models this for us.

Let us say a  
**HAIL MARY**  
together!

**Reflection and Sharing:** How is Mary a model for me?

How does Mary lead me to the crucified and Risen Jesus?

**Hail Mary** (Pray in unison.)

**Prayer: ALL:** Mary, you are such a powerful intercessor with your son. Today I commend to you all the most urgent needs and desires of my heart, knowing you will obtain for me what I need most. I pray this in the name of Jesus and through the Spirit. Amen.

prepared for the Ladies of Charity by Sister Carol Schumer, D.C.