



## MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

“The sacred image, the liturgical icon, principally represents *Christ*. It cannot represent the invisible and incomprehensible God, but the incarnation of the Son of God has ushered in a new ‘economy’ of images:

Previously God, who has neither a body nor a face, absolutely could not be represented by an image. But now that he has made himself visible in the flesh and has lived with men, I can make an image of what I have seen of God . . . and contemplate the glory of the Lord, his face unveiled.<sup>27</sup>” *Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)* 1159

“Christian iconography expresses in images the same Gospel message that Scripture communicates by words. Image and word illuminate each other:

We declare that we preserve intact all the written and unwritten traditions of the Church which have been entrusted to us. One of these traditions consists in the production of representational artwork, which accords with the history of the preaching of the Gospel. For it confirms that the incarnation of the Word of God was real and not imaginary, and to our benefit as well, for realities that illustrate each other undoubtedly reflect each other’s meaning.<sup>28</sup>” *CCC* 1160

“All the signs in the liturgical celebrations are related to Christ: as are sacred images of the holy Mother of God and of the saints as well. They truly signify Christ, who is glorified in them. They make manifest the ‘cloud of witnesses’<sup>29</sup> who continue to participate in the salvation of the world and to whom we are united, above all in sacramental celebrations. Through their icons, it is man ‘in the image of God,’ finally transfigured ‘into his likeness,’<sup>30</sup> who is revealed to our faith. So too are the angels, who also are recapitulated in Christ:

Following the divinely inspired teaching of our holy Fathers and the tradition of the Catholic Church (for we know that this tradition comes from the Holy Spirit who dwells in her) we rightly define with full certainty and correctness that, like the figure of the precious and life-giving cross, venerable and holy images of our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ, our inviolate Lady, the holy Mother of God, and the venerated angels, all the saints and the just, whether painted or made of mosaic or another suitable material, are to be exhibited in the holy churches of God, on sacred vessels and vestments, walls and panels, in houses and on streets.<sup>31</sup>” *CCC* 1161

“The beauty of the images moves me to contemplation, as a meadow delights the eyes and subtly infuses the soul with the glory of God.’<sup>32</sup> Similarly, the contemplation of sacred icons, united with meditation on the Word of God and the singing of liturgical hymns, enters into the harmony of the signs of celebration so that the mystery celebrated is imprinted in the heart’s memory and is then expressed in the new life of the faithful.” *CCC* 1162

27 St. John Damascene, *De imag.* 1, 16: PG 96:1245-1248.

28 Council of Nicaea II (787): *COD* 111.

29 *Heb* 12:1.

30 Cf. *Rom* 8:29; *1 Jn* 3:2.

31 Council of Nicaea II: DS 600.

32 St. John Damascene, *De imag.* 1, 27: PG 94, 1268A, B.

# What Did You Learn About Mary, Mother of God?

for younger saints

1. On what day do we celebrate the feast of Mary, Mother of God?
  - a. September 8
  - b. December 25
  - c. January 1
2. How can you make everything you do during the day a prayer?
  - a. Offer everything to Jesus by praying the Morning Offering.
  - b. Stay at church all day and night.
  - c. Ordinary people cannot do this, only priests and nuns can.
3. How is Mary different from all other people?
  - a. She never sinned.
  - b. She gave birth to God.
  - c. She was created by her own Son.
4. Select the words that describe Mary.

Obedient	Crabby	Brave	Loving
Foolish	Holy	Sneaky	Trusting
Beautiful	Unselfish	Greedy	Pure
5. The colors and symbols in an icon all have special meanings.
  - True
  - False
6. Praying while looking at an icon can teach us more about our faith.
  - True
  - False
7. Icons are made just to look beautiful.
  - True
  - False
8. Recite your memory verse.

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*"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the holy Spirit be with all of you." 2 Corinthians 13:13*

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4. The artists who create icons like to remain anonymous to point all attention to God and away from themselves.

True

False
5. Painting icons is a creative form of art, and each artist does it in his or her own way.

True

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6. The colors and symbols in an icon all have specific meanings.

True

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7. Meditating or praying with an icon can make the truths of our faith more clear.

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