

Mary: Our Advocate and Protector

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All you need to Know About Virgin Mary Mother of God Jesus Christ, By Melkisedeck Leon Shine

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?? The role of Mary in the Catholic faith is one that holds great significance and importance. As the Mother of God, she is not only a revered figure but also an advocate and protector for all believers. Let us delve into the reasons why Mary is such a beloved and cherished figure in our spiritual journey.

1 Mary's unique role as the Mother of God sets her apart from any other woman in history. As stated in Luke 1:43, Elizabeth proclaims, "And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?" Mary is not just the mother of Jesus, but the mother of our Lord and Savior.

2 Throughout the Bible, we see Mary's unwavering faith and obedience to God's will. When the angel Gabriel appeared to her and announced that she would conceive and bear a son, she humbly accepted, saying, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). Mary's submission to God's plan serves as an example for us to trust in His divine guidance.

3 Mary's intercession on behalf of humanity is a testament to her role as our advocate. Just as she interceded at the wedding at Cana, saying to Jesus, "They have no wine" (John 2:3), she continues to intercede for us in heaven, presenting our needs to her Son.

4 The Catechism of the Catholic Church reveals Mary's intercessory role, stating that "The Virgin Mary is the Church's model of faith and charity." Her prayers are not only heard by God but are also powerful in obtaining graces for us.

5 One of the most well-known prayers in Catholicism, the Hail Mary, exemplifies our devotion to Mary. In this prayer, we honor her as the "Mother of God" and ask for her intercession, saying, "Pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death."

6 The saints of the Catholic Church also recognized the importance of Mary in our spiritual journey. St. Louis de Montfort wrote, "Mary is the safest, easiest, shortest and most perfect way of approaching Jesus." By seeking her guidance and protection, we draw closer to Christ.

7 Mary's role as our protector is evident in her title as the "Queen of Heaven." Just as a queen protects and cares for her subjects, Mary watches over us, ensuring our spiritual well-being.

8 The devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary reminds us of her deep love for humanity. In this devotion, we offer our prayers and acts of reparation to console her heart, wounded by the sins of humanity.

9 The significance of Mary's perpetual virginity is often misunderstood. The Catholic Church teaches that Mary remained a virgin before, during, and after the birth of Jesus. This emphasizes her complete dedication to God and her unique role as the Mother of God.

? The love and respect for Mary extend beyond the Catholic Church. In the Orthodox tradition, Mary is venerated as the Theotokos, meaning "God-bearer." This title emphasizes her role in giving birth to Jesus, who is fully God and fully human.

11 Mary's role as our advocate does not diminish the importance of Jesus as our sole mediator. Rather, Mary leads us to Jesus and helps us deepen our relationship with Him. As St. Maximilian Kolbe once said, "Never be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin Mary too much. You can never love her more than Jesus did."

12 The devotion to Mary is not an obstacle but a means to grow closer to Christ. By seeking her guidance and protection, we acknowledge our need for the intercession of the saints and the communion of saints.

13 Through Mary's immaculate heart, we are reminded of the purity and holiness that we should strive for in our own lives. Her example challenges us to embrace virtue and reject sin.

14 The Visitation, when Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth, is a beautiful example of Mary's role as our advocate. As Elizabeth exclaimed, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!" (Luke 1:42), we too are blessed by Mary's intercession.

15 In conclusion, Mary holds a special place in our faith as our advocate and protector. Her unwavering faith, obedience to God's will, and intercessory role make her a beloved figure in our spiritual journey. Embracing her as our mother and seeking her guidance leads us closer to Jesus and deepens our relationship with Him.

What are your thoughts on Mary's role as our advocate and protector? How has her intercession impacted your spiritual life?