

Chapter 3: Mary Lives with Justice and Obedience

Mary perfectly cooperated with God's work of salvation.

Chapter Summary

Jesus entered the world through the obedience of His Mother, Mary. When Gabriel told Mary God's plan, she responded, "Let it be to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). Through Adam and Eve's disobedience, sin entered the world. But through Mary's faithful obedience, Christ entered the world. Thus, Mary became the New Eve and the new Mother of all the living. Through her Immaculate Conception, Mary was prepared by God to be the Mother of Jesus. She is our model of virtue, for she is full of grace and virtue. During Advent, we are called to imitate Mary as we prepare to celebrate the Birth of Jesus. In this time, we are uniquely called to be alert and watchful in prayer as we wait for the coming of Jesus.

Mary, Mirror of Justice

A primary theme of Grade 5 in Word of Life is the cardinal virtue of justice. We live this cardinal virtue when we give God and others what they are due.

Mary is called "Mirror of Justice" because she reflects the holiness and goodness of her Son. We can see in Mary's example all that we should imitate and strive for in our lives of virtue. In the Family Faith pages for this unit, families will see how Mary models the cardinal virtue of justice—and the other virtues related to justice—by looking at three events in her life: the Annunciation, the Visitation, and the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple. In this chapter, we will look at the Annunciation.



The Annunciation

When the Angel Gabriel announced God's plan for Mary to become the Mother of Jesus, Mary lived with perfect justice to God. Mary gave God what is due to Him, namely, her complete and prompt obedience. Obedience is a virtue related to the cardinal virtue of justice.

As families, we learn an important lesson from Mary's example at the Annunciation. Mary understood that God's will comes before our own. Every member of the family should practice prompt obedience to those in authority over him. We grow in the cardinal virtue of justice by giving our obedience to those in authority over us, whether as children to parents and teachers, or as adults to employers.

For more family faith formation resources, go to the parent portal.