

# The Annunciation

Luke 1:26-37

*Memory Verse:*

**“Do not be afraid”** (Luke 1:13).

The whole world was waiting for God to save people from their sin of disobeying God. Mary was waiting and praying too. While she was praying, the angel Gabriel appeared to her. Angel Gabriel told Mary that God had chosen her to be the Mother of God, to bring Jesus, the Messiah, into the world, to save us from our sin.

Mary was afraid. She had never seen an angel! Angels are spirits, messengers of God to guide and watch over us. You have a guardian angel who watches over you, too. Angel Gabriel told Mary: “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will have a Son and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the most high . . . and of his Kingdom there will be no end” (Luke 1:31-33).

“Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I have no husband?’

The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you and . . . the child will be called holy, the Son of God’” (Luke 1:34-35).

Mary said, "I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done as you say" (Luke 1:38).

The angel also told Mary that her cousin, Elizabeth, a very old lady, would soon have a baby. For nothing is impossible with God (cf. Luke 1:37).

Mary carried Jesus under her heart. Mary is the Mother of God and the mother of all who believe in Jesus. When we pray, we ask Mary, our spiritual mother, to pray for us, sinners now and when we get ready to die. When we die, we want to die in God's grace so that we can see Jesus, face to face. Jesus can bring His friends into the throne room of God the Father in heaven.

We ask Jesus to forgive our sins and, when we die, to bring us into heaven, where we can live in the presence of God for all eternity. Eternity is forever, millions and billions of years! When we leave this world we hope to see all of our loved ones who have died before us.

Pray to your Guardian Angel to help you to love Jesus and be good and obedient. Pray to your Guardian Angel whenever you are afraid. Remember Angel Gabriel said, "Do not be afraid" (Luke 1:13).

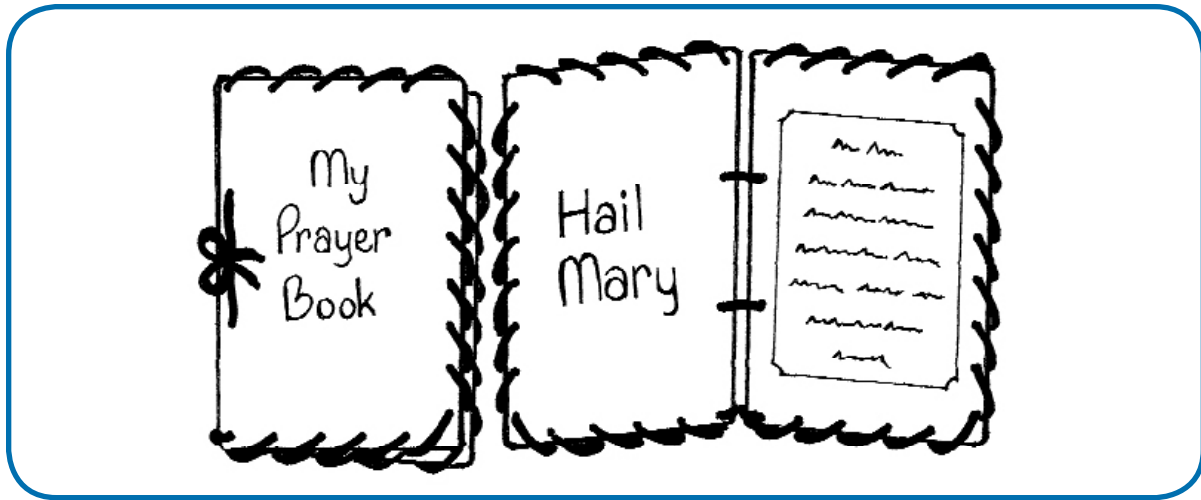
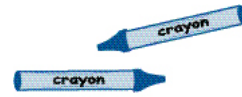
Angel of God,  
My guardian dear,  
To whom God's love  
commits me here,  
Ever this day  
be at my side,  
To light, to guard,  
to rule and guide.  
Amen.

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# Annunciation Craft



*This craft will produce a decorative prayer book that when opened will present the "Hail Mary." (note: Later prayers will be combined with this prayer to create a wonderful Prayer Book for the child.)*

## Materials:

colorful foam paper, hole puncher, yarn, markers, stickers, glue, scissors, tape, "The Hail Mary" prayer printed on paper (4" x 6")

## Preparation:

1. Fold and cut each piece of foam paper in half (short sides together). Each craft will use one piece of foam paper.
2. Punch holes around the rim of the foam paper.
3. Pre-print the "Hail Mary" prayer on paper. You can do this by hand or print two prayers per sheet of 8 1/2" x 11" paper on your computer using landscape mode. One prayer per child will be needed.
4. Cut 24" lengths of yarn (two per craft). Tie a knot at the end of each piece and place tape around the tip of the other side for ease of sewing.
5. Cut 10" pieces of yarn (one per craft) to be used as the book's binding.

## Assembling:

1. Write "MY PRAYER BOOK" or personalize with the child's name "JOSHUA'S PRAYER BOOK" using markers in the center of one piece of pre-punched foam paper. Be sure to hold foam paper short side on top.
2. Decorate the cover of the prayer book with stickers or markers.
3. Thread the yarn in and out of the holes all the way around the foam paper. Tie a knot and cut off excess when you reach the first hole. Repeat for the other piece of foam paper.
4. Place the two foam pieces together (making the book) and punch two new holes in the center left side approximately 2-3 inches from each other.
5. Thread the small piece of yarn through the two holes, starting from the back. Tie a knot and then a bow in the front to bind the book together.
6. Open the book and write "The Hail Mary" on the inside cover.
7. Glue the pre-printed copy of the Hail Mary prayer on the facing page. The prayer book is now complete!

## Other Ideas:

1. Use paper plates or poster paper instead of foam paper, if unavailable.
2. Decorate with holy cards, pictures from old Christmas cards, buttons, small pompoms, old puzzle pieces, etc. for the cover of the prayer book.
3. Use glitter/glue markers for writing "MY PRAYER BOOK" for a puffy or fancy look.
4. Add more pages with more prayers if time allows (The Lord's Prayer, Act of Contrition, Glory Be to the Father or Grace Before Meals).
5. Use ribbon instead of yarn for binding pages together.