

People of the Bible

Mary mother of Jesus

St. Mary, the mother of Jesus, is mentioned repeatedly in the Gospels and the Book of Acts, with nearly a dozen specific incidents in her life being recorded:

- her betrothal to Joseph;
- the annunciation by the angel Gabriel that she was to be the mother of the Messiah;
- her visitation to Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptizer;
- the nativity of our Lord;
- the visits of the shepherds and the Wise Men;
- the presentation of the infant Jesus in the temple;
- the flight into Egypt;
- the Passover visit to Jerusalem when Jesus was twelve;
- the wedding at Cana in Galilee;
- her presence at the crucifixion, when her Son commended her to the care of His disciple John; and
- her gathering with the apostles in the Upper Room after the ascension, waiting for the promised Holy Spirit.

Thus she is present at most of the important events in her Son's life.

Mary is especially remembered and honored for:

- her unconditional obedience to the will of God ("Let it be to me according to Your word" [Luke 1:38]);
- for her loyalty to her Son even when she did not understand Him ("Do whatever He tells you" [John 2:1-11]); and
- above all for the highest honor that heaven bestowed on her of being the mother of our Lord ("Blessed are you among women" [Luke 1:42]).

According to tradition, Mary went with the apostle John to Ephesus, where she died.