

Who is the Blessed Mother?

“It was through the most holy Virgin Mary that Jesus came into the world, and it is also through her that He has to reign in the world. Mary was singularly hidden during her life. It is on this account that the Holy Ghost and the Church call her *Alma Mater*— ‘Mother secret and hidden’.” (St. Louis de Montfort, *True Devotion to Mary*, Page 1)

In Scripture

“I will put enmities between thee and the woman, and thy seed and her seed: she shall crush thy head, and thou shalt lie in wait for her heel.” (Genesis 3:15)

“And Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary his mother: Behold this child is set for the fall and for the resurrection of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be contradicted; And thy own soul a sword shall pierce, that, out of many hearts, thoughts may be revealed.” (St. Luke 2:34-35)

“Now there stood by the cross of Jesus, his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalen. When Jesus therefore had seen his mother and the disciple standing whom he loved, he saith to his mother: **Woman, behold thy son**. After that, he saith to the disciple: **Behold thy mother**. And from that hour, the disciple took her to his own.” (St. John 19:25-27)

“And the angel being come in, said unto her: Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.” (St. Luke 1:28)

“And a great sign appeared in heaven: A woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars:” (Apocalypse 12:1)

“And seeing the star they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And entering into the house, they found the child with Mary his mother, and falling down they adored him; and opening their treasures, they offered him gifts; gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” (St. Matthew 2:10-11)

“His mother saith to the waiters: Whatsoever he shall say to you, do ye.” (St. John 2:5)

“And Mary said: My soul doth magnify the Lord. And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. Because he hath regarded the humility of his handmaid; for behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.” (St. Luke 1:46-48)

According to the Early Church

“So if Eve disobeyed God, yet Mary was persuaded to be obedient to God. In this way, the Virgin Mary might become the advocate of the virgin Eve. And thus, as the human race fell into bondage to death by means of a virgin, so it is rescued by a virgin. Virginal disobedience has been balanced in the opposite scale by virginal obedience. For in the same way, the sin of the first created man received amendment by the correction of the First-Begotten.” (St. Irenaeus, *Against Heresies* 5:19:1, 189 A.D.)

“The Father bears witness from heaven to his Son. The Holy Spirit bears witness, bringing the good tidings to Mary. The Virgin Mother of God bears witness.”
(St. Cyril of Jerusalem, *Catechetical Lectures* 10:19, 350 A.D.)

“The first thing which kindles ardor in learning is the greatness of the teacher. What is greater than the Mother of God? What more glorious than she whom Glory Itself chose?” (St. Ambrose, *The Virgins* 2:2, 377 A.D.)

“This expression, however, ‘the Word was made flesh’, can mean nothing else but that he partook of flesh and blood like to us; he made our body his own, and came forth man from a woman, not casting off his existence as God, or his generation of God the Father, but even in taking to himself flesh remaining what he was. This the declaration of the correct faith proclaims everywhere. This was the sentiment of the holy Fathers; therefore they ventured to call the holy Virgin ‘the Mother of God’, not as if the nature of the Word or his divinity had its beginning from the holy Virgin, but because of her was born that holy body with a rational soul, to which the Word, being personally united, is said to be born according to the flesh.” (St. Cyril of Alexandria, *First Letter to Nestorius*, 430 A.D.)

“But Mary, the glorious Mother of Christ, who is believed to be a virgin both before and after she bore him, has, as was said above, been translated into paradise, amid the singing of the angelic choirs, whither the Lord preceded her.” (St. Gregory of Tours, *Eight Books of Miracles* 1:8, 584 A.D.)