

GET TO KNOW THESE *great* FRIENDS!

It's good to have friends who can help you. The saints are those kinds of friends! They help us by showing us ways to live as Jesus lived. Some saints did heroic things. Others lived more quietly. Every saint was different, but no saint was perfect.* When they made mistakes, they came to Jesus, said they were sorry, and tried again. Saints show us that even though we sin, Jesus will forgive us and help us do better, as long as we ask.

Some saints lived long ago. Others lived more recently. But today, they all live in heaven with Jesus, in perfect joy and peace. That's another way saints help us—they can bring our prayers right to Jesus!

You're friends with Jesus too, right? That means you can be a saint! Learn about some saints here. Try the activities, and have fun—with your friends, the saints!

*** ACTUALLY, ONE SAINT IS PERFECT.**

Do you know who? (Hint: you can read about her on the next page!)

MARY

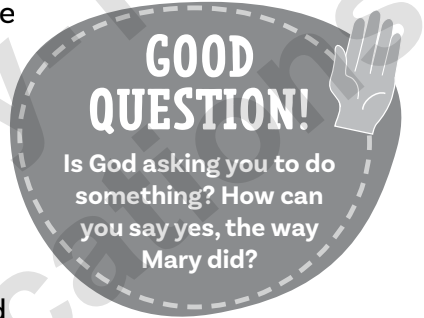
JANUARY 1

Our greatest saint gives us our greatest gift!

Friends sometimes give each other gifts. Mary gave us the greatest gift. Here's what happened: An angel visited and told Mary that God had chosen her to be the mother of his Son. Mary could have said she wasn't ready, or that she was too busy. Instead, Mary said, "May it be done to me according to your word." Mary said yes to God's call (even though she didn't understand it completely).

When Mary said yes, she helped give us God's Son Jesus—our first and greatest Christmas present! But Mary wasn't finished giving gifts. She said yes to God all her life. When she learned that her older cousin Elizabeth was going to have a baby, Mary went to help her. When Joseph had to make a long trip to Bethlehem, Mary came with him, even though she was about to give birth to

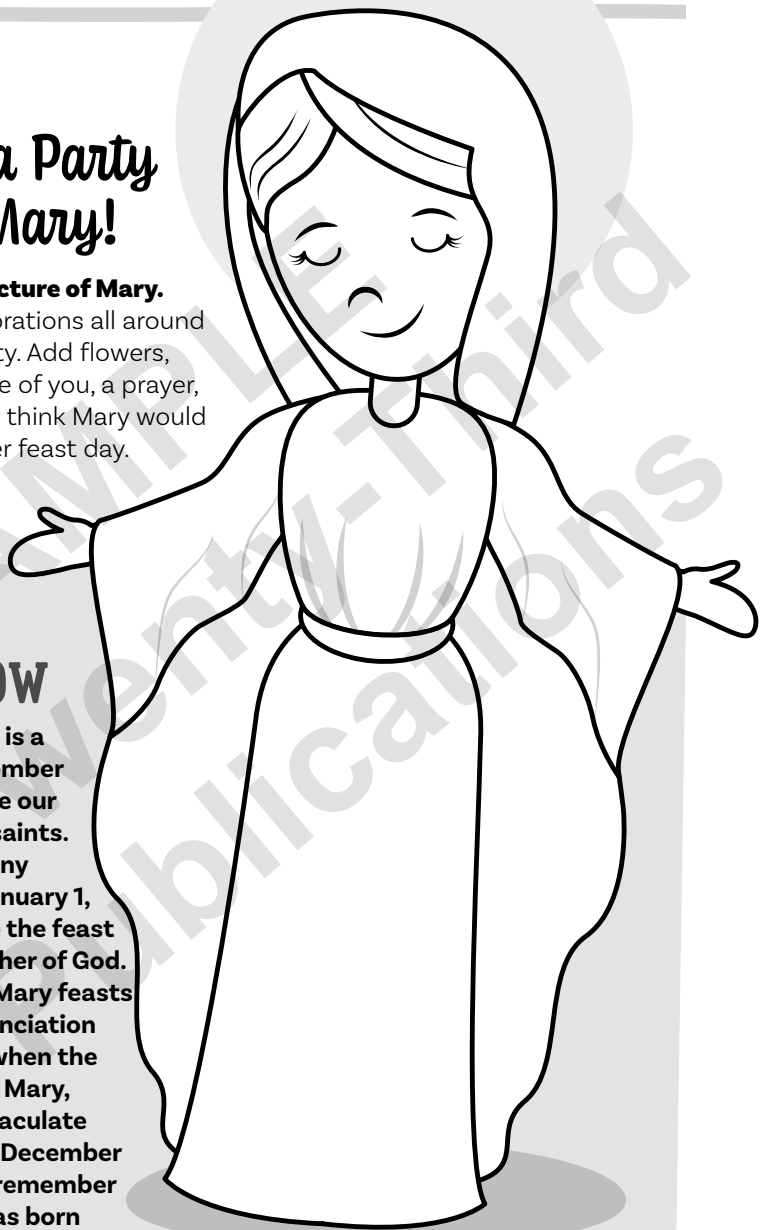
baby Jesus. When Jesus suffered on the cross, he asked Mary to be a mom to his friend John, and to all people. And Mary is the mother of us all, to this day! Mary is also the Queen of the Saints—that's why we put her first!



Plan a Party for Mary!

Color the picture of Mary.

Then draw decorations all around her for a party. Add flowers, hearts, a picture of you, a prayer, or whatever you think Mary would like on her feast day.



GOOD to KNOW

A FEAST DAY is a time to remember and celebrate our friends, the saints. Mary has many feasts. On January 1, we celebrate the feast of Mary, Mother of God. Some other Mary feasts are the Annunciation (March 25), when the angel visited Mary, and the Immaculate Conception (December 8), when we remember that Mary was born free of all sin.

ANDRÉ BESSETTE

JANUARY 6



One nickel at a time...

What can you buy with a nickel? St. André Bessette turned some nickels into a beautiful place to pray. St. André knew that you don't have to be a big, important person to do great things.

St. André was a sickly orphan when he first came to the priests and brothers of the Holy Cross in Canada. He was sent to serve at a school, where he answered the door, cared for the sick, scrubbed floors, and took care of the gardens.

People loved the gentle and happy brother and brought the sick to him for healing. Brother André said he didn't heal people; St. Joseph did. But he wanted to give people a place to pray that would also honor St. Joseph. So he started giving haircuts, charging five cents apiece. When he had saved \$200

in nickels and other donations, he had a little shrine built. It was just one small room, but over time, Brother André's shrine grew into the largest Catholic church in Canada: St. Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal. Millions of people pray and go to Mass there every year. And it all began with some nickels—and lots of prayers!



GOOD QUESTION!

Is there something small and good you might do today? (Who knows? It might turn into something big and great!)

Imagine your own place to pray



If you could create a place where people could come to pray, what would it be like? Use the space here to draw a prayer place of your own. **Use your imagination to make it the best it can be!**

GOOD to KNOW



Saint André never took credit for anything he did. He often said, "I have only my great devotion to Saint Joseph to guide me."

JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

FEBRUARY 8

“Love the Lord!”

It’s hard to imagine how terrible St. Josephine Bakhita’s childhood was. When she was about seven years old, she was kidnapped and sold as a slave in North Africa. She was so frightened, she couldn’t even remember her name. So her kidnappers cruelly called her Bakhita, which means “fortunate,” or “lucky.”

A slave’s life is the opposite of lucky and fortunate. Bakhita was mistreated and often beaten. She was never paid for her work. But things began to change when the family she served sent Bakhita with one of the children to a convent in Italy. The kind sisters shared Jesus’ love with Bakhita. She asked to be baptized and took the name Josephine. When her owners sent for her, Josephine courageously refused to go. The sisters took her case to court, and Josephine was set free. Now she could do whatever she wanted. And Josephine wanted to serve God. She became a sister. You might think that after her horrible childhood, Josephine would be angry. Instead, she treated everyone with kindness and love. She said, “Be good, love the Lord, pray for those who do not know him. What a great grace it is to know God!”



GOOD QUESTION!

When you are treated badly, how do you respond? Ask Jesus to help you.

Feel Better

We've all had times when we've been hurt by others. How can you get from feeling bad to feeling better? Circle all the good ideas.

Draw an x through any ideas that won't help you.



PRAY
TALK
ABOUT IT

HOLD A
GRUDGE

HELP OTHERS
FEEL BETTER

FORGIVE



GOOD to KNOW

When someone asked what she would do if she ever met the people who had kidnapped her, St. Josephine answered, "I would kneel and kiss their hands. For if these things had not happened, I would not have been a Christian and a religious today."