

# MARY'S SIGNIFICANCE, AS MOTHER OF GOD

The older we get, the more interested we become in our mother's life. In our teens, as we experience some things for the first time, we realize that our mother did these before us. We begin a new level of conversation with her, and that grows in the coming years.

This same interest is true for Catholics, too, and our relationship with Mary, the mother of Jesus and a beloved maternal figure. You may be beginning to develop an understanding of what Mary offers you. And like you do with your own mother, whether you are female or male, you'll likely develop a deeper connection in years to come.

So endeared is Mary, that she has so many beloved and many names—the Blessed Virgin, Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Madonna, the Virgin Mary, the Queen of Heaven and Our Lady of Mercy, among many others.

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“Nature’s blossoming, the warm air of May evenings, human gladness in a world that is renewing itself—all these things enter in. Veneration of Mary has its place in this very particular atmosphere, for she, the Virgin, shows us faith under its youthful aspect, as God’s new beginning in a world that has grown old.”

— Pope Benedict XVI

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**HER GIFTS TO US** – As a truly holy woman and a mother, Mary’s life offers us the opportunity to model her behavior, to strive to be the patient, loving, caring person she was.

Some of her gifts to us include:

- ~ Lessons in accepting life’s challenges
- ~ Faith that good will come to us
- ~ Solace when we need comfort

What gifts have you accepted from Mary?

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OUR BLESSED MOTHER