

**Knights of Columbus**  
**Council 459**  
**Spiritual Training**  
**December: Mary**

**Opening Prayer**

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

**Mary**

- Intro: why do we hold Mary in such high regard relative to other Christians?
  - It only makes sense...Mary points us to Jesus!
  - Mary is the New Eve; Mary's "yes" was in contrast to Eve's refusal to obey God.
  - But our relationship to Mary can confuse other Christians;
  - For example, some say we "worship Mary" or consider her some sort of goddess. This is not true.
  - Even many Catholics do not know what we believe about Mary.
- So what do Catholics believe about Mary? Here are five key teachings:
  1. Theotokos: Mary is the Mother of God.
    - a. Theotokos means "God bearer"
  2. Perpetual Virginity: Mary was a virgin before, during, and after the birth of Jesus.
  3. Immaculate Conception: Mary was conceived without original sin.
    - a. Remember--Mary was human, not divine
  4. Assumption: Mary was taken body and soul into heaven.
  5. Co-redemptrix, Mediatrix, and Advocate: Mary plays a unique role in redemption.
    - a. The Queen of Heaven and Earth
    - b. She is our intercessor, or advocate, before God and her son.
    - c. Fulton Sheen: One day the Lord says to St. Peter, "How are all these people getting into heaven?" "Don't blame me," St. Peter says, "Every time I close a door, your Mother opens a window!"
- She also is our mother

- In his last moments, Jesus proclaimed her Mother of humanity. “Behold, your mother!” JN 19:27
- Thus, we should speak with our mother often, especially through the Rosary, as we walk with her to become closer to our Blessed Lord, Jesus.

### **Closing Prayer - *Hail Mary***

### **Resources**

- Fulton Sheen, Treasure in Clay, Ch. 20 (“The Woman I Love”)
- What Catholic’s Believe about Mary <https://dynamiccatholic.com/5-million-rosaries/what-catholics-believe-about-mary>