



# Quarantine . . . A Time for Treasure Seeking

Crisis and Opportunity . . . “When one door closes another opens!” Cultivate that attitude during pandemic quarantine days. A Stay-At-Home order creates time to pursue new interests; to delve into topics that escape us in our otherwise busy lives.

This is true of the treasures of our Catholic culture. Programs of religious instruction condense material to 30 weekly hourly-sessions. Capitalize on Covid time! Expand your family’s knowledge of topics like the Commandments, Sacraments, Saints, Rituals and Practices (like Stations of the Cross, the Rosary, formula for confession), details of Catholic disciplines (like holy days of obligation, fast, abstinence), the Mass, the Bible, Christian morality, Catholic traditions, and common prayers.

Some free digital resources include: **Busted Halo.com**, a web-video series with topics like *Sacraments 101* with Fr. Dave Dwyer, CSP, *Sacraments 201* with Fr. Steven Bell, CSP, *You Don’t Know Jack ... about Lent, Advent, Halloween, Valentines’ Day, New Year’s*, and similar traditions by Fr. Jack Collins, CSP); or **SkitGuys.com** YouTube videos like *Chiseled, Grace*, and *Triduum*.

**Mary** is a particular faith treasure well worth exploring! We know her as a teenager, cousin of Elizabeth, wife of Joseph, mother of Jesus, homeless, emigrant/immigrant, widow, hospitable neighbor, counselor to the apostles, and courageous woman who stood by her son who was unjustly mistreated and murdered. As a family walk in her sandals!

## 1. PROFILE MARY

Whenever we spend time with a person we can “pick up” character traits that we admire. Read the scripture references to Mary. Make a list of 10 character traits or personality qualities of Mary that emerge. Next to each trait, write one example of something you could do to imitate Mary. Practice that trait.

Mary Scripture Citations: Luke 1: 26-38 ([Annunciation](#)); Luke 1: 39-45 ([Visitation](#)); Luke 1: 46-56 ([Magnificat](#)); Luke 2: 6-7 ([Bethlehem Birth](#)); Luke 2: 15-20 ([Shepherd’s Visit](#)); Luke 2: 22-35 ([Presentation](#)); Matthew 2:13-16 ([Egypt Exile](#)); Matthew 2: 19-23 ([Return to Nazareth](#)); Luke 2: 41-52 ([Lost and Found](#)); John 19:25 ([Crucifixion](#)); Acts 1:14 ([Cenacle](#)).

## 2. LEARN MARY APPARITIONS

Did you know that Mary appeared on earth several times? Do you know the stories about those visits (apparitions)? What did Mary communicate during the visits? The stories of Lourdes, Fatima, Guadalupe, and the Miraculous Medal/ Saint Catherine Labouré are available for free as *YouTube Movies*. Additionally, the Augustine Institute ([www.Formed.org](http://www.Formed.org)) offers movies and presentations on these topics and many other topics of Catholic interest.

Choose an apparition. View the movie. Discuss the story with your family members. Discover the feast date and a prayer that is connected to the apparition feast.

## 3. Design a Mary Marathon

Combine the above ideas with learning the rosary (the meaning of its prayers and how to make a rosary); titles in the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary; multicultural representations of Mary; and the major Marian feast days.

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