

**Resources for Consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
**Solemnity of the Annunciation**  
**April 8, 2024**



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## Consecration FAQs

**1. What does it mean to consecrate?**

To consecrate means to “set apart as holy”, to designate an object or person for a sacred purpose. Consecration suggests a mission for the object or person who has been consecrated and implies a relationship between God and man, an intimate connection.

**2. How have we already been consecrated to God?**

We have been consecrated to God through the gift of Baptism. In Baptism, we receive God’s free gift of Himself and become His adopted children. Baptism sets us apart – *consecrates* us – as God’s chosen people. Through the other Sacraments of Initiation, Confirmation and the Eucharist, we are strengthened and nourished for the mission of building the Kingdom of God.

**3. Why do we consecrate ourselves?**

We consecrate ourselves to God because we want to grow closer to Him. Consecration is a response to the Lord’s invitation to live in holiness and self-giving. When we consecrate ourselves to God, we are making a commitment to live very intentionally for Him in all aspects of our daily lives, giving ourselves fully to God out of love.

**4. What is a Marian consecration?**

Mary is the disciple *par excellence*, the model of holiness, the supreme example of what it means to devote one’s life to God – to love God. She is the ultimate mother, and a mom always wants the very best for her children. Mary wants all people to have a deep and loving relationship with her Son, our Lord, and will do everything to make it happen. This is why we ask her to take all of our being and offer it to God the Father, through Christ, her Son, in unity with the Holy Spirit. There is a rich tradition in the Church with respect to Marian Consecration. The most popular and beneficial form is that of St. Louis de Montfort.

**5. What is an Act of Consecration?**

Also known as *dedication* or *entrustment*, an Act of Consecration is a prayer that is used to consecrate a person, family, parish, diocese, religious community or group. It can vary in length and detail but the core of it is the same: the giving of one’s entire being to God and asking for the grace to carry out God’s will.

**6. Can a person re-consecrate him/herself?**

Once a person has consecrated him/herself it is a common and good spiritual practice to *renew* that consecration, particularly on the anniversary of their original consecration. Pope Francis has asked the Faithful to renew the Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, March 25.

**7. Can families or other communities consecrate themselves?**

Yes. Consecrating a family or community (religious or other faith-sharing groups) is a wonderful way to draw closer together, united in love by the Holy Spirit. For families, it can strengthen their identity as a household of faith, a domestic church; for religious communities and other faith-sharing groups it can reawaken commitment, charisms and inspire new avenues for service.

**8. *How do I prepare for consecration to Mary?***

Begin with an open heart and a firm desire to know Jesus more deeply through Mary. Preparation can include meditation on a passage of Scripture, prayers of intercession, a litany and or a Marian prayer. The length of preparation is variable. It may be for a designated period of time, such as three days (triduum) eight day (octave) or nine days (novena).

**9. *What is a triduum?***

Most often, the word “triduum” is associated with the Easter Triduum, however, a triduum is any three-day period that prepares us for the celebration of something special. The *Renewal of Consecration to Our Lady on the Solemnity of the Annunciation* is a very special celebration, and the Archdiocese of Toronto is preparing with a **Marian Triduum**. In 2024, the Solemnity of the Annunciation, normally celebrated on March 25, is transferred to April 8 because of the date of Easter.

**10. *Why a Marian Triduum?***

As Mother of God and Mother of the Church, Mary’s only desire is that all God’s children, those consecrated to him in Baptism, share in the fullness of his life and love. By entrusting ourselves to our Blessed Mother’s maternal care, we receive her intercession and companionship. Consecration to our Blessed Mother is a profound expression of our desire to live our lives fully in Christ and to grow in holiness. Such an act of faith requires intentional spiritual preparation, an example of which is a Marian Triduum.

## Some Suggestions for Making a Marian Pilgrimage

1. *Choose a location.* This can be a church, shrine or altar/statue dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Researching locations can be a form of spiritual preparation because it will prompt you to consider why you are making this pilgrimage at this time in your life.
2. *Invite others to accompany you.* Ask friends, family, or parishioners to join you and make it an opportunity for community faith building. Consider sharing a meal together afterwards; if it's a nice day, plan for a picnic and enjoy the beauty of creation!
3. *Spiritually prepare.* Think about why you have chosen to make this pilgrimage and any intentions that you will bring to Jesus through our Blessed Mother. Write down your specific intentions and prayers of thanksgiving and carry them with you as you make the pilgrimage.
4. *Keep a spirit of prayer and penance.* Prayer is what makes a pilgrimage different from an ordinary journey to a destination. You could pray one set of the Mysteries of the Rosary on the way there and another on the way back.
5. *Pack the essentials.* These could include a Bible, rosary, prayer booklet or card with Marian prayers, rosary, a prayer booklet or prayer card with a Marian litany, and your prayer intentions. Pack food and beverages if you've planned a picnic.

### At the site:

- pray another set of the **Mysteries of the Rosary** (or two if you are praying all four mysteries);
- pray the **Litany of the Immaculate Heart of Mary** or **Litany of Loretto** (Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary);
- pray for the intentions of the Pope and the needs of the Church and your pilgrimage companions;
- spend some time in silence;
- pray the **Angelus**, the **Regina Caeli** or the **Magnificat**;
- celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation;
- consecrate or renew consecration to Our Lady.

## **Some Suggestions for Parish Marian Processions**

### Why Procession?

- It reminds us that we are heading somewhere, we have a destination: God, heaven, eternal life.
- We move towards a place that is holy, sacred.
- It's a public witness to Mary as Mother and Queen.

### Steps:

1. Involve many parish groups and ecclesial movements and associations (e.g., Knights of Columbus, Rosary Apostolate, Legion of Mary, music ministry, youth and family ministry, etc.) in the planning.
2. Plan the procession:
  - Route
  - Rosary, prayers
  - Songs
  - Specific duties of ministers, coordinators, leaders
  - Obtain the necessary permits from civil authorities
3. Invite parishioners (including liturgical and pastoral ministries), families, schools, senior's home residents.
4. Prepare the Marian statue and platform, decorate tastefully with flowers and other culturally significant objects.
5. Gather. Process. Pray. Witness.
  - Make it a family gathering of faith and devotion.

## Further Resources for Marian Consecration and Triduum

### Primary Items

- Consecration of the Faithful in the Archdiocese of Toronto to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church on the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord
- Three-Day Preparation (Marian Triduum) for Consecration to Our Lady, Friday, April 5 to Sunday, April 7, 2024

### General Resources

- [Pope Francis invites the Faithful to renew the consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary every March 25](#), Pope Francis, General Audience, March 22, 2023
- [Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary](#), Pope Francis, March 25, 2022
- [Act of Entrustment to Mary](#), Pope Francis
- [Pope Francis invites Catholics to renew consecration to Immaculate Heart of Mary on March 25](#), Catholic News Agency, March 22, 2023
- [Pope Francis asked Catholics to renew Marian consecration every March 25. Here's what that means](#), Catholic News Agency, March 24, 2023
- [Frequently Asked Questions about Marian Consecrations](#)
- [Meaning of Consecration](#), article by Fr. Johann Roten, S.M., University of Dayton
- [Some Suggestions for Making a Marian Pilgrimage](#)
- References in the [Catechism of the Catholic Church and the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church](#)
  - The prayer of the Virgin Mary, Catechism: 2617-2619;
  - In communion with the holy Mother of God, Catechism: 2673-2679;
  - Mary's singular cooperation with the action of the Holy Spirit, Catechism: 2682;
  - How is Christian prayer Marian? Compendium: 562
  - How does the Church pray to Mary? Compendium: 563
- Magisterial Documents
  - [Lumen Gentium](#) 60-69
  - [Marialis Cultus](#)
  - [Redemptoris Mater](#)
  - [Rosarium Virginis Mariae](#)
  - [Magisterial Documents on Mary from 1854-2003](#), University of Dayton
- Prayers
  - [Litany of the Immaculate Heart of Mary](#)
  - [Litany of Loreto](#)
  - [Angelus](#)
  - [Regina Caeli](#)
  - [Magnificat](#)

## Parish

- Consecration of the Faithful in the Archdiocese of Toronto to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church on the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord
  - Use adaptation for parishes
- Three-Day Preparation (Marian Triduum) for Consecration to Our Lady, Friday, April 5 to Sunday, April 7, 2024
- [Some Suggestions for Parish Marian Processions](#)
- Marian Hymns
  - *Catholic Book of Worship III*: 457-470
  - *Celebrate in Song*: 6.24
- [Block Rosary](#), University of Dayton
- [Antiphons of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#), University of Dayton
- [Music](#), University of Dayton

## Family

- Consecration of the Faithful in the Archdiocese of Toronto to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church on the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord
  - Use adaptation for families
- Three-Day Preparation (Marian Triduum) for Consecration to Our Lady, Friday, April 5 to Sunday, April 7, 2024
- [Litany to Mary, Queen of the Family](#), University of Dayton
- [Catechetical activity for children \(6-8 years old\)](#), resource from the 2017 Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops Marian consecration of Canada
- [Catechetical activity for children \(9-11 years old\)](#), resource from the 2017 Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops Marian consecration of Canada
- [Mother Mary's Heart](#), e-book for Toddlers by Little Douglings
- [Mary, Our Mother plush figure](#), Novalis
- [Adapted Faith Formation Resources for Mary](#), National Catholic Partnership on Disability
- [Adapted Faith Formation on the Rosary](#), National Catholic Partnership on Disability
- [Hail Mary Worksheet \(English\)](#), National Catholic Partnership on Disability
- [Hail Mary Worksheet \(Spanish\)](#), National Catholic Partnership on Disability

## Schools

- Consecration of the Faithful in the Archdiocese of Toronto to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church on the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord
  - Use adaptation for schools
- Three-Day Preparation (Marian Triduum) for Consecration to Our Lady, Friday, April 5 to Sunday, April 7, 2024
- [Block Rosary](#), University of Dayton
- [Catechetical activity for children \(6-8 years old\)](#), resource from the 2017 Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops Marian consecration of Canada
- [Catechetical activity for children \(9-11 years old\)](#), resource from the 2017 Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops Marian consecration of Canada
- [Mary, Our Mother plush figure](#), Novalis



## **Sick and Homebound**

- Consecration of the Faithful in the Archdiocese of Toronto to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church on the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord
  - Hospital chaplains may adapt as needed, or for family or individual use
- Three-Day Preparation (Marian Triduum) for Consecration to Our Lady, Friday, April 5 to Sunday, April 7, 2024
- [Block Rosary](#), University of Dayton

## **Persons with Disabilities**

- [Adapted Faith Formation Resources for Mary](#), National Catholic Partnership on Disability
- [Adapted Faith Formation on the Rosary](#), National Catholic Partnership on Disability
- [Hail Mary Worksheet \(English\)](#), National Catholic Partnership on Disability
- [Hail Mary Worksheet \(Spanish\)](#), National Catholic Partnership on Disability
- [Block Rosary](#), University of Dayton
- [Mary, Our Mother plush figure](#), Novalis