












# St. John's Newsletter



## Symbols of Mary reflect her love and purity

To celebrate Mary in the Month of May, let's review some traditional Marian Symbols. These symbols can be found in art, church decor, sacramentals, holy cards and more from across the centuries. Each tells about the Blessed Virgin Mary and her role in Salvation History. The symbols also show the connection between Mary and Jesus. As the Mother of God, everything she does leads us to know, love and follow her Son.

	<b>Marian M and Cross</b> The Cross intertwined with a Marian M can be seen on the back of the Miraculous Medal and in other Marian art. What we believe about Mary always comes first from what we believe about Christ.		<b>Miraculous Medal</b> This medal has Our Lady, the Immaculate Conception, on the front and a Marian M and Cross, Sacred and Immaculate Heart, and a circle of 12 stars on the back. It was given to St. Catherine Laboure in 1830.
	<b>Jesus, Mary &amp; Joseph</b> JMJ is an abbreviation of the names of the Holy Family: Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Labeling a work with "JMJ" is a way to dedicate a task to the Holy Family, asking them to watch over you.		<b>Immaculate Heart of Mary</b> Closely connected with the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate Heart of Mary is ringed with roses and pierced by a sword. The Immaculate Heart is symbolic of her pure, maternal, and sacrificial love.
	<b>Crown of Twelve Stars</b> In the Book of Revelations, Mary has a crown of twelve stars on her head, surrounded by the sun and the moon. Twelve reminds us of the tribes of Israel in the Old Testament and the apostles in the New Testament, symbolizing the perfect authority of Christ's Church.		<b>Sorrowful Heart of Mary</b> The Seven Sorrows of Mary are stories from the Bible where the Blessed Mother experienced pain and sadness during Jesus' life. A symbolic Heart pierced by seven swords is used to remind us of these Sorrows.
	<b>Auspice Maria</b> Auspice Maria is Latin for "Under the Protection of Mary." This monogram of an interwoven A and M is a symbol used to mark someone or something as dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary.		<b>Most Holy Rosary</b> Made of a string of beads beginning and ending with a Crucifix, a Rosary is a tool that helps us count prayers as we say them. While praying the Our Fathers and Hail Marys, we are invited to meditate on the Mysteries of Jesus's life.
	<b>Fleur-de-lis</b> This decorative version of a lily is often connected with the Annunciation when Gabriel announced the Incarnation – that God would become Man, and would be called Jesus. Lilies, which stand for purity, are symbols of both Mary and Joseph. Fleur-de-lis is French for "Flower of the Lily."		<b>Marian Crown</b> Kings and queens on earth wear crowns as signs of their authority. Jesus is the King of the Universe! As we honor Mary as queen of Heaven and Earth, she is often depicted receiving a Heavenly crown in statues, icons and paintings.
	<b>Marian Flowers</b> In the Middle Ages, flowers were given religious names as a little way to sanctify, or make holy, and everyday objects. Many flowers have Marian names and when grown together are called a <i>Mary Garden</i> . Some of the flowers with Marian names are Rosa Mystica, Lily of the Valley, Marigold, Violet, Daisy, Iris, Aster and Columbine.		

Sources: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/294704369387080000/>  
<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/1688918604959403/>

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