



Mary, the New Eve.



Try Prayer! It Works! 2018

Contest Rules

Students in Grades K – 12 enrolled in a Catholic school, religious education program, Parish or other organization, including home schooling are eligible to enter.

Entries will be judged on content, ability to capture and interpret the theme, artistic and technical proficiency and adherence to rules.

A panel of judges will be selected by Family Rosary.

Each entry must be accompanied by an official entry form. Copies of the entry form are permitted.

Theme: 'Mary, The New Eve'

The Try Prayer! It works! Contest focuses on family faith enrichment in the home. Our goal is to bring the Church's teachings to life around the dinner table with discussion prompts, reflection questions, prayer ideas and creativity.

The theme of this year, **"Mary, the New Eve,"** is to help your family reflect on God's call for your life and to discuss the importance of our Blessed Mother Mary.



Theme: 'Mary, The New Eve'



SHORT STORY

Submit an essay of 50 to 100 words on 8 1/2 x11-inch paper



POETRY

On 8 1/2 x11-inch paper submit a poem minimum of 10 lines and maximum of 30 lines



ART WORK

(painting, drawing, scrapbooking, or collages) - Any of these mediums can be submitted on no larger than 8 1/2 x11-inch paper. Please include a brief description of the work.

THINK OUT OF THE BOX!

We encourage you to think outside the box, but ask your parent, teacher or leader permission before you pursue your own creative idea!



Did you know God had a rescue mission planned to restore and redeem friendship with all of us? His first task in this mission was asking Mary to be Christ's Mother. Mary's "yes" to God's call was her commitment to becoming "the New Eve," the Mother of the Church and all baptized in Jesus' name.

Through Mary, the Holy Spirit begins to bring men, the objects of God's merciful love, {Lk 2:14} in communion with Christ. And the humble are always the first to accept him: shepherds, the Magi, Simeon and Anna, the bride and groom at the wedding at Cana, and the first disciples. {CCC 725}

At the end of this mission of the Spirit, Mary became the Woman, the new Eve {"mother of the living"}, the mother of the {Cf. Jn. 19:25-27} "whole Christ." As such, she was present with the "Twelve," who "with one accord devoted themselves to prayer," {Acts 1:14} at the dawn of the "End Time" which the Spirit was to inaugurate on the morning of Pentecost with the manifestation of the Church." {CCC726}

Mary's role as "the New Eve" was the Holy Spirit working through her to bring each of us closer to God's merciful love. Her devotion to Christ and humble acceptance of God's plan gently unites all people, as she works to share the deep joy and peace His friendship can bring.

United by baptism, we are all brothers and sisters of Christ, sons and daughters of God. Mary is our perfect model, committed to helping bring God's love to all. Reflect with your family about how you can work together to live your life full of faith like the Blessed Mother.

Why was Mary's role in God's "rescue mission" so important? How does she bring the Church and all those baptized together?

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Dear family,

Tonight we encourage you to take time as a family during or after dinner to go through each of these steps, contemplate the prompts and finish in prayer together.

1. Begin by choosing someone to light a candle in the center of the table. Encourage everyone to breathe in a moment of silence. Put away all your daily worries for this short time. Choose to focus on the people sitting around you. Once you feel the tone of the room is reflective, continue on to the next step.

2. Ask someone to open with a prayer to Our Blessed Mother. Use the prayer we provided below or create your own!

Lord, thank you for gathering us together tonight. Please gently guide our conversation to become a fruitful and growing experience. We ask this through the intercession of Our Mother, "Hail, Mary, full of grace the Lord is with Thee; blessed art Thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of Thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen."

3. Once you've finished the opening prayer, invite another family member to read the paragraphs from the Catechism of the Catholic Church (725-6). If you don't have a copy of this, refer to the text below.

Finally, through Mary, the Holy Spirit begins to bring men, the objects of God's merciful love,(Lk2:14) into communion with Christ. And the humble are always the first to accept him: shepherds, magi, Simeon and Anna, the bride and groom at Cana, and the first disciples. At the end of this mission of the Spirit, Mary became the Woman, the new Eve ("mother of the living"), the mother of the "whole Christ."(Jn 19:25-27). As such, she was present with the Twelve, who "with one accord devoted themselves to prayer,"(Acts 1:14) at the dawn of the "end time" which the Spirit was to inaugurate on the morning of Pentecost with the manifestation of the Church.

4. Let's break that down a bit:
Ever since sin was introduced to the world, God had been planning a rescue mission to restore and redeem friendship with all of us. His first step was asking Mary to play an important role; that is, asking Mary to be Christ's Mother. Mary's "yes" to God's call was her commitment to becoming "the new Eve" or the Mother of the Church and all baptized in Jesus' name.

5. Now that you've heard the excerpt from the Catholic Catechism, discuss these questions together:

- Why is Mary's role in God's rescue mission so important?
- How does she bring the Church and all those baptized together?

6. After your brief reflection, take a few minutes to silently think about Mary. How well do you know her? Are you living your life for God like she did?

TEACHERS/ PARENTS

Teachers / Parents may need to explain to children what Mary, the new Eve, means. Since the fall in the Garden of Eden, when Adam and Eve sinned and through disobedience lost intimacy and friendship with God, God was planning a rescue mission to redeem and restore all men and women to friendship with Him. He sends the Holy Spirit to Mary and asks her to share in this mission to bring the merciful love of God to humanity. She becomes the new Eve when she says "Yes" and The Word of God is conceived in her womb, the Christ. Since Christ Jesus is the first born of many brothers and sisters, who through baptism are made part of Christ, the New Eve is mother of the "whole Christ," that includes all the baptized.

ENTRIES DUE

All entries are due:
MAY 01, 2018

REWARDS

\$ 100 US for each 1st place winner

\$ 100 US to sponsor of each 1st place winner

Rewards for Teachers

QUESTIONS?

For more information,
call 800-299-PRAY or visit:

www.FamilyRosary.org/tryprayer

Try Prayer! It Works! Contest

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7. Take turns going around the table to describe how you saw the light of Mary today in someone else or how you chose to follow her selfless, loving example yourself.

8. Once everyone has had a chance to share, read the Try Prayer! It Works! prompt on the previous page outlining how to enter.

9. Decide as a family what your entry will look like, the possibilities are endless:

- Choose to write a story or poem about God using Mary in His rescue mission!
- Make a collage using pictures and words to describe how Mary continues to work in your family's life!

Whatever creative route you decide to pursue for this project, we encourage you to brainstorm with your family! Refer to the "Contest Guide" sheet for more information about creative rules and guidelines.

10. Close this time you've shared together with prayer and a call to action. *Lord, thank you for this engaging conversation and deep family reflection. Please help each of us live our lives for God just like Our Blessed Mother did. We ask that you give our family the courage to say "yes" every day to your plan. Our family trusts in you and together we say the prayer that Jesus taught us, "Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us: and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen."*

Thank you for taking the time to reflect with your family! We encourage your family to have similar daily conversations to strengthen your faith together. As Father Patrick Peyton said, **"The family that prays together stays together."**

For daily reflection questions and topics, visit our blog at blog.familyrosary.org.

We look forward to your contest submission! You're always in our thoughts and prayers at the Father Peyton Center in North Easton, Massachusetts, USA.

Blessings to you and your family

