

## **Immaculate Conception**

The Immaculate Conception, a solemnity, is the patronal feast of the United States. It is one of the few Holy days of obligation on the Church calendar -- that is, all Catholics are obligated to attend Mass on this day. As this feast occurs early in Advent, it is a perfect time to consider Mary and her important role in the celebration of Christmas.

On December 8, we honor the Immaculate Conception of Mary our Mother. Our first parents offended God by sinning seriously. Because of the fall of Adam and Eve, every baby is born into the world with original sin. We are all children of our first parents so; we all inherit their sin. This sin in us is called original sin.

But the Blessed Virgin Mary was given a marvelous gift. She was conceived in the womb of her mother, St. Anne, without this original sin. Our Lady was to be the mother of Jesus, God's only Son. This great favor that God blessed Our Lady with is called her Immaculate Conception.

One hundred and fifty years ago, in 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed to the whole world that there was no doubt at all that Mary was conceived without sin.

### **Hail Mary Game:**

Directions: Roll the die to see who goes first, second, third, etc. Select the amount of times around the board in advance. Players place their marker on START. Each player rolls the die and moves clockwise that many spaces on the board. Players must then fill in the blank of the prayer correctly to stay on the space. If they are incorrect, they go back to where they were. Keep playing allotted times around the board for a winner. Continue playing to find out who comes in second, third, fourth, etc. place.

Start/Finish



Hail \_\_\_\_\_, full of  
\_\_\_\_\_!

The \_\_\_\_\_ is with  
\_\_\_\_\_;

\_\_\_\_\_.

# Hail Mary

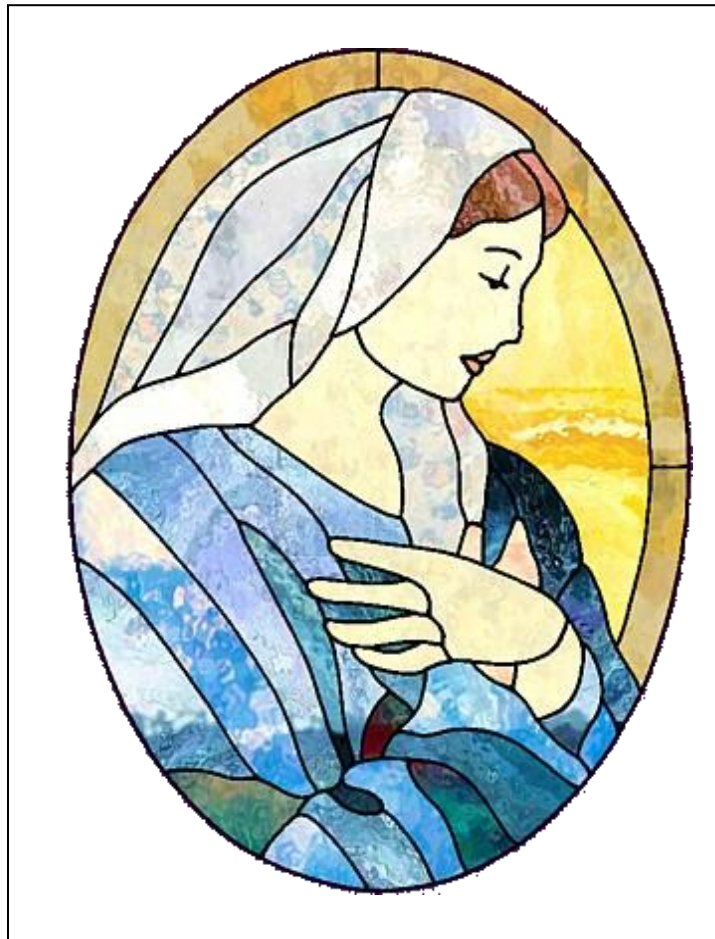
\_\_\_\_\_ are you  
among  
\_\_\_\_\_.

hour of  
our  
\_\_\_\_\_.

and

\_\_\_\_\_ is the  
\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ and  
at the



of your  
womb,  
\_\_\_\_\_.

pray for us  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Mother of \_\_\_\_\_,

Holy \_\_\_\_\_,