



When she was only three years old, the Blessed Virgin Mary was taken to the Temple in Jerusalem by her parents, St Joachim and St Anne. (We celebrate their feast day on July 26). Mary's whole life was to belong to God. He had chosen her to be the Mother of his Son, Jesus. The Blessed Virgin was happy to begin serving God in the Temple. And St Joachim and St Anne were pleased to offer their saintly little girl to God. They knew that God had sent her to them.

In the Temple, the high priest received the child Mary. She was placed among the girls who were dedicated to prayer and Temple service. The high priest kissed and blessed the holy child. He realized that the Lord had great plans for her. Mary did not weep or turn back to her parents. She came so happily to the altar that everyone in the Temple loved her at once.

Learn this prayer:

Blessed be your purity, for all eternity; God Himself rejoices in such gracious beauty.

To you Celestial Princess, Holy Virgin Mary, I offer this day my soul, my life, my heart.

Look upon me with compassion; You are my Mother, never leave me.

St Joachim and St Anne went back home. They praised God for their blessed daughter. And Mary remained in the Temple, where she grew in holiness. She spent her days reading the Bible, praying and serving the Temple priests. She made beautiful linens and splendid vestments. Mary was loved by all the other girls because she was so kind. Mary tried to do each of her duties well, to please God.

Mary lived her life to please God. She was aware of His divine presence. We can ask Our Heavenly Mother Mary to teach us how to please Jesus every day.