

## **January 1**

### **Feast of Mary, Mother of God**

On January 1st, the Church focuses our attention on Mary, the Mother of God—the woman who had such an important role in the birth of Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary, both God and man. In the Mass we pray that Mary, the mother of the Lord, will help us by her prayers.

### **Prayer**

Hail, holy Mother! The child to whom you gave birth is the King of heaven and earth for ever.

### **Craft**

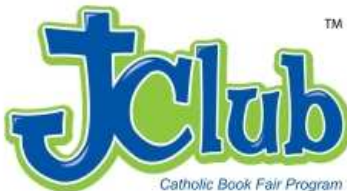
Cut out a circle from white paper. Make the circle as big as you like. Fold the circle in half. Open. With a blue magic marker outline thickly the left half of the circle. Take a flesh colored marker or crayon and color in a large oval near the top of the outline and a smaller one near the bottom (these will become the faces of Mary and in her arms the child Jesus). With a yellow marker outline the right half of the circle. With a thin black marker draw a thin star in the right half. This craft can sit on your desk or dresser drawers as a reminder of Mary's presence always with you.

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### **World Day of Peace**

#### **Country Search**

Have each child look up information on the people of different countries. If possible, they can interview someone from that country. They can report on food, dances, types of government, festivals, problems, types of poverty, etc. Have each child draw a simple outline-map of their country which they can post on colored construction paper. Make a home or classroom display by posting the maps on the wall with a colored strip of paper to connect them. Underneath each map can be listed some of the information they found about the country. Have the children then write a prayer for peace in the world, especially in the countries they researched.



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