

# Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

November 21



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Marian Feast Day

Joachim and Anne brought their young daughter, Mary, to the temple steps. They had prayed to God to give them a child, and they had promised to dedicate their child to Him if He answered their prayer. After their beautiful baby, Mary, was born, they kept her home with them for three precious years. Now they were bringing the three-year-old Mary to the Temple to dedicate her to God's service.

The little girl climbed up the Temple steps with the light of love in her eyes. She did not cry at leaving her parents because she knew she was going to serve God, whom she loved above all else.

The high priest led little Mary to the steps of the high altar, and she prostrated herself entirely before the altar, offering herself to God alone.

The high priest was amazed.

Never had such a young child been so ready to give herself so completely to God.

From that day on, Mary served in the Temple. Her days and nights she spent singing psalms in praise of God, reading the Scriptures, and keeping vigil before God's altar. She decorated the Temple and wove the veils and priests' robes with her hands.

All at the Temple recognized Mary's holiness and grace. And at the Temple she stayed until she was betrothed to Joseph. Then, the angel Gabriel appeared before her to announce that she was full of grace and had been chosen to be the Mother of God.

If it is hard to understand how so young a girl would be so ready to give herself to God, we must not forget that God had saved Mary and preserved her from Original Sin. She lived full of grace, her heart ever turned to God.

Hail Mary, full of grace, help my heart be ever turned to God!