March

Prepare a bulletin board with a picture of Jesus praying. Read the Gospel passage of Jesus praying in the Garden before His Passion. Explain how Jesus’ prayer was universal—He prayed for everyone, even His enemies. Ask the children to place their intentions on a cross and pin these to the bulletin board. Take a different intention each day to pray for in a special way during Lent.

Because school is generally not in session near Father’s Day, we don’t often have the opportunity to recognize Fathers as much as we do mothers for Mothers’ Day. The feast of St. Joseph provides an opportunity for us to recognize those special people who care for us. A “Special Person’s Day” on or near the feast of St. Joseph could be celebrated. Students could recognize their fathers or some other special person by writing them cards/having a special prayer service for them. Place their names on the bulletin board near the picture of St. Joseph.
Ask the students to reflect on and share with others the things they do for those they love. Try to get them to realize that while we often use a heart as a symbol of love, one of the greatest symbols of love in our faith is the empty cross which represents the love Jesus showed to us through His Death and Resurrection. Similar to the design on the left, ask the students to design a bulletin board for the classroom showing a cross with a background of signs of new life.

Design a bulletin board using the symbols of “New Life” as they represent the new life of the Easter Season. Ask the students to each bring a picture of something that they can contribute to a collage on the Bulletin Board. When they bring in the picture, have them explain how their picture represents new life. Explain how Baptism is an Easter sacrament because it brings new life to the soul. Ask why eggs are used as an Easter symbol. Flowers? Butterflies? The Rising Sun? How can these things be reminders to them of the new life Jesus brought into the world? How can they be reminders to say a prayer of Thanksgiving?
Our Mission to Bring Others to Mary

MAY

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 death. Amen

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee, and for those who do not have recourse to thee, especially the enemies of the Church and those recommended to thee. Amen.

There are many beautiful prayers to Mary. The month of May provides the opportunity to teach the meaning of the prayers we say. Depending on the level of the students, place an enlarged copy of a time-honored prayer to Mary. Highlight the words/phrases they might not readily understand and teach them the meaning of these words/phrases. At some point in time, have them write the prayer to check to see that phrases such as “full of grace” is not being interpreted as “full of grays.” Say the prayer with them each day during the month. Some of the prayers that could be used include:

- Hail Mary
- Hail, Holy Queen
- Memorare
- Angelus
- Regina Coeli
- Immaculate Mary (Hymn)
- The Miraculous Medal Prayer
- The Magnificat