

# RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page



*Our Lady Queen of Peace*, Hamilton Reed Armstrong

## Focus on Faith

### Mary in Our Lives

**S**cholars tell us that Mary was probably in her mid-teens at the time of the Annunciation. This was the normal age for a girl to be betrothed. She was from an otherwise-undistinguished family, living in an occupied country. It is no wonder that Mary questioned God's plan for her; nevertheless, she believed and faced the future confident that God would be with her. We face an unknown future. As we get older and move through life, we discover that things are not as certain as they once seemed. We cannot help but wonder about the world in which we are bringing up our children. Mary faced all these issues with faith and hope. Never be afraid to ask her for help.

### Hints for at Home

Make a Mary Crown. With your child, collect beautiful flowers and leaves. If fresh flowers are not available, use artificial flowers. Fasten the flowers and leaves to a base, which you can make out of wire or craft stems. When you are finished, place the crown in a special area of your home. Be sure to talk with your child about the importance of Mary in our lives.

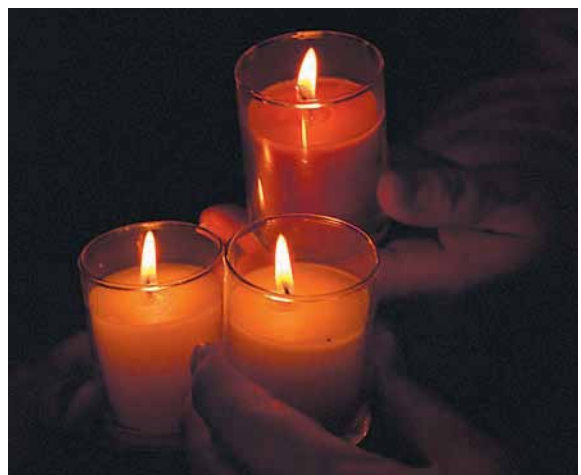


### Dinnertime Conversation Starter

**A**lthough your first grader is quite young, he or she still has decisions to make. Ask your child what decisions he or she had to make today. Explain how present decisions often affect the future.

### In Our Parish

As a family, visit the statue of Mary in your church after Sunday Mass. Encourage your child to talk about the statue. Pause to say a Hail Mary or, perhaps, to light a vigil candle.



### Focus on Prayer

Your child is learning the Hail Mary. Pray the prayer together often as a family, and talk about what it means to say yes to God as Mary did. Visit [www.FindingGod.org](http://www.FindingGod.org) for the words to this prayer.



[www.findinggod.com](http://www.findinggod.com)