



What is Traveling Mary?

Every year, from Kindergarten through 5th Grade, each student will bring home their classroom's special statue of Mother Mary for one week. By the end of your time here at St. Gabriel, your family will have the opportunity to learn six of the approved Apparitions of Our Blessed Mother, from all across the world, spanning a variety of Catholic cultures.

Why do we do Traveling Mary as a school?

This tradition was started a few years ago at our school by a beloved former teacher who passed away in 2020, Ale Skinkle. Ale had a huge devotion to Mother Mary; she even went to Lourdes (where Our Lady appeared and left behind a stream of healing waters) when she was diagnosed with cancer. While that pilgrimage did not cure Ale's body, it filled her with an outpouring of grace and light. Ale brought home a statue from Lourdes to give to our school, and she shared her dream with St. Gabriel that every family would be able to host a visit from Mary in their home. She longed for every family to feel the love and consolation that she had experienced from Mother Mary.

We have worked hard to make Ale's vision accessible to every family in our community, and we are proud to share the Classroom Traveling Mary as a result.

What to do with her in your home: We included a list of ideas from a bunch of families in each Mary bag - but really, the sky's the limit! Take Mary out, put her in a place of honor, let the little ones touch her. Read the special book we included about her with your child. Have her join you at the dinner table! Or for homework around the kitchen island. Treat her like a Class Gnome, but with a little extra respect. ;)

How long do you get her? One week. (Please don't forget to return her to class with your child in time for the next family!)

When do you get your Traveling Mary: Assigned by your teacher.

For you: Please take one rosary to keep, donated to us by some sweet elderly women who make them in our St. Gabriel Church.

If you have any questions, or anything breaks, please reach out to Kallah Oakes (kaloakes@gmail.com) or Gigi McDonell (mcdonelliden@gmail.com), our heads of Spiritual Growth in Faith and Community.