Our Blessed Mother is:

1. Theotokos: Mary is the Mother of God.
2. Perpetual Virginity: Mary was a virgin before, during, and after the birth of Jesus.
3. Immaculate Conception: Mary was conceived without original sin.
4. Assumption: Mary was taken body and soul into heaven.
5. Co-redemptrix, Mediatrix, and Advocate: Mary plays a unique role in redemption.

Mary suffered with Jesus. As co-redemptrix, we acknowledge her intimate cooperation with Jesus in the redemption of humanity, in his amazing sacrifice for us on the cross. She bore him, raised him, supported him in his ministry, and walked with him every step of the way to his passion and death.

Sacraments of the Catholic Church:

There are seven sacraments of the Church, of which the source and summit is the Eucharist. According to the Catechism, the sacraments were instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church. They are vehicles through which God's grace flows into the person who receives them with the proper disposition. In order to obtain the proper disposition, people are encouraged, and in some cases required, to undergo sufficient preparation before being permitted to receive certain sacraments.

Participation in the sacraments, offered to them through the Church, is a way Catholics obtain grace, forgiveness of sins and formally ask for the Holy Spirit. These sacraments are: Baptism, Reconciliation (Confession), the Eucharist, Confirmation, Marriage, Holy Orders and Anointing of the Sick.

God’s Grace: meaning “the state of kindness and favor toward someone, often with a focus on a benefit given to them.

All God’s gifts reflect His grace, and the fact that they are gifts means that they are free and cannot be earned. This concept describes God’s gracious act of providing for those who look to Him for help.

The New Testament concept of grace includes the idea of a dynamic power that enables those who have been saved to live the Christian life and serve God. The apostle Paul saw this power as the explanation for his own successful ministry. He worked harder than others because the grace of God was “with” him.

Our efforts to serve God are like the gifts a child might give to a parent using money that the parent has provided for the purchase. The gifts we give to God are really a kind of re-gifting. Both the opportunity and the ability to serve Him are matters of grace. Because of this our efforts are not really our own. They are a result of God working through us. This is God working in us “to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose”. The Christian life is a life of grace from beginning to end. We enter it by grace, live it by grace, and receive rewards at the end by grace.

God the Father:

The central statement of Catholic faith, the Nicene Creed, begins, "I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible." Thus, Catholics believe that God is not a part of nature, but that God created nature and all that exists. God is viewed as a loving and caring God who is active both in the world and in people's lives, and desires humankind to love one another.

God the Son:

Catholics believe that Jesus is God incarnate, "true God and true man" (or both fully divine and fully human). Jesus, having become fully human, suffered our pain, finally succumbed to his injuries and gave up his spirit he said, "It is finished." He was tempted but did not sin. As true God, he defeated death and rose to life again.

According to the New Testament, "God raised him from the dead," he ascended to heaven, is "seated at the right hand of the Father" and will return again to fulfil the rest of Messianic prophecy, including the resurrection of the dead, the Last Judgment and final establishment of the Kingdom of God.

According to the gospels of Matthew and Luke, Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born from the Virgin Mary. Little of Jesus' childhood is recorded in the canonical gospels, although infancy gospels were popular in antiquity. In comparison, his adulthood, especially the week before his death, are well documented in the gospels contained within the New Testament. The biblical accounts of Jesus' ministry include: his baptism, healings, teaching, and "going about doing good".

Jesus told his apostles that after his death and resurrection he would send them the "Advocate" (Paraclete), the "Holy Spirit", who "will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you".

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus tells his disciples "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

The Nicene Creed states that the Holy Spirit is one with God the Father and God the Son (Jesus); thus, for Catholics, receiving the Holy Spirit is receiving God, the source of all that is good. Catholics formally ask for and receive the Holy Spirit through the sacrament of Confirmation. Sometimes called the sacrament of Christian maturity, Confirmation is believed to bring an increase and deepening of the grace received at Baptism,[81] to which it was cojoined in the early church. Spiritual graces or gifts of the Holy Spirit can include wisdom to see and follow God's plan, right judgment, love for others, boldness in witnessing the faith, and rejoicing in the presence of God. The corresponding **fruits of the Holy Spirit are** **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.** To be validly confirmed, a person must be in a state of grace, which means that they cannot be conscious of having committed a mortal sin. They must also have prepared spiritually for the sacrament, chosen a sponsor or godparent for spiritual support, and selected a saint to be their special patron.