



HOLY HEROES

Saint Anne

*Feast Day: July 26
Patroness of Mothers*

St. Anne is the mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary and grandmother of Jesus. Her name means "grace." There is tremendous devotion throughout the world for this holy woman because of her closeness to Jesus. Information of St. Anne comes to us through the tradition of the Church as there is no reference to the mother of Mary in the Bible.

Tradition teaches us that Anne and her husband, Joachim, spent their lives worshipping God and living a good and holy life. They suffered great sorrow, however, because they had no children. Anne prayed desperately for a child and promised to dedicate that child to God. An angel appeared to Anne telling her the Lord had heard her prayers and that she would give birth to a daughter. The angel said that Anne's daughter "would be honored by all the world." The angel made the same promise to Joachim.

In her old age, Anne did have a daughter and named her Mary. As promised, Anne presented Mary in the temple when Mary was 3 years old. By some accounts, Mary grew up living in the Temple of Jerusalem.

"We have every reason to choose Saint Anne as our intercessor before God. As grandmother of Jesus Christ, . . . she is also our grandmother and loves us, her grandchildren." (Treasury of Novenas)