

Saint Elizabeth

Directions: Read the biography and answer the questions.

Saint Elizabeth was the mother of John the Baptist and a relative of the Virgin Mary. She came from a family of priests and married a priest named Zechariah. Although they tried to have a baby for many years, they were unable to have children. But then the Angel Gabriel visited her husband Zechariah in the temple and announced they would have a son and name him John. The angel said this boy would become great in the eyes of the Lord and filled with the Holy Spirit even before his birth. Elizabeth was very grateful for this gift from God because she was old and past the usual age of bearing children. Meanwhile, the Angel Gabriel visited her relative Mary in



Nazareth to announce her pregnancy with Jesus Christ, the son of God. Gabriel told Mary about Elizabeth's baby and Mary left to visit and stay with her for a few months. As soon as Mary arrived, Elizabeth's child leaped in her womb and Elizabeth spoke the words echoed in the Hail Mary prayer, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb." After Mary left, Elizabeth gave birth to her son and she named him John as Gabriel had told them to do. This is the last time Elizabeth is mentioned in the New Testament, but tradition holds that she died and was buried near Jerusalem.

1. Why was Saint Elizabeth so grateful for becoming pregnant?

2. How do we show respect to the Virgin Mary today like Saint Elizabeth did?

3. Write a prayer for all pregnant mothers, especially women that you know.
