



Is Mary still Virgin and Mother, for Catholics?  
Did she have any other children with Joseph?  
What does the Word of God say?

Today, many Catholics think that Mary had other children and that Jesus had brothers and sisters. I will show you that this is wrong. My approach will be based only on chapters and verses of the Word of God. I will make very few comments in order that you make your idea.

I begin by inviting you to pay attention to what the Word of God says to us in Luke I: 46-48: “And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, 49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name.” The Almighty, here, is God himself who looks at Mary, he falls in love with her, and wants to reserve her for himself. Mary is young, humble and available to serve God. He chooses her to give birth to his Only Son, the Messiah promised to the people of Israel.

Where does this promise come from? Open your eyes wide and read twice the text of Isaiah's prophecy (Is 7,14) where he reveals the promise that Yahweh makes to the people of Israel: “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel (that is, God with us).” VIII th century B J. - C., God makes this promise to the Jewish people and for that he gives him an indication, a double sign: a virgin is pregnant and gives birth to a son, but not any one, the God-with-us, the Messiah, the Emmanuel.

### **What was Maria's reaction?**

What does the Word of God tell us? Let us closely follow the dialogue between Mary and the angel of God in Luke I: 28-38: “The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.” Was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Highest. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

““How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.

So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail.”

Mary, despite her youth, stands up before the angel. Disturbed, she does not recoil before the beautiful words of the angel. Pregnant and giving birth to a child is not part of her life plan. She resisted and defeated the angel: “I do not know a man, I am a virgin.” It is out of the question for me to submit to your invitation. The angel of God does not abandon and he gives her a sign: “Elizabeth, of your kinship, has just had a child, even if she is old and sterile.” And implicitly, he said to Mary, “you are young and able to give birth to a child.” In the presence of such a signal, Mary makes an act of faith and wishes that everything happens according to the word of the angel. “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled. Then the angel left her.”

### **What was Joseph's reaction?**

The struggle (of the Incarnation of the Son of God) is hot and not won in advance, it necessary convince her suitor to marriage, her lover, Joseph. “Joseph, who was a righteous man, did not want to denounce her publicly and decided to send her away in secret. “(Mt I, 21-23). If Mary's family members had learned that she was pregnant outside marriage, they would have sentenced her to death and possibly stoned in public. “But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.”. Just man, this Joseph, accepts to be the adoptive father of Jesus, in faith, without understanding everything.

### **Did Jesus have other brothers and sisters?**

Did Jesus have brothers and sisters? All right, now let's see what God's Word tells us about this? The Apostle Matthew presents us a genealogy of Jesus, Christ, son of David, son of Abraham. Matthew I, 2-3. II. 16: “This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham: Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and **his brothers**, Abraham fathered Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, Jacob begot Judah and **his brethren**, etcetera ...until the fourteenth generation ... ending with Jesus, “and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is

called the Messiah” Here, the text of Matthew stops suddenly, after Jesus, and we do not find the expression "**and his brothers**".

Luke in his Gospel reminds us of a fact that telling us that Jesus did not have any brothers or sisters, 2,41-43: “Every year Jesus’ parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. The festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it.” Where are the other children, since he is nowhere mentioned and **with his brothers**? The other fancy thing is that Mary and Joseph would have been abstinent for twelve years? This is unrealistic and in the name of what would they have done it? They both remained chaste, realizing the will of God.

Now things are getting tough. Open your eyes and ears to the reading of the Gospel of Mark 3: 31-35: “Then Jesus’ mother and **brothers** arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, “Your mother and **brothers** are outside looking for you.” “Who are my mother and my brothers?” he asked. Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, “Here are my mother and my **brothers**! Whoever does God’s will is my **brother and sister** and mother.” Jesus can not be clearer, for him a **brother**, a sister, a mother, it is he who does the will of God and keeps his commandments.

Here is what Luke reports us in the Acts of the Apostles I: 14-15: “They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with **his brothers**. In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) and said, “**Brothers and sisters**, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit.” If we follow the logic of the Protestants and a good number of Catholic theologians that Jesus had **brothers of blood**, how can we explain that Mary would have had 120 children, **brothers** of Jesus? Which is ridiculous and unthinkable.

I Corinthians 15: 4-8: “That he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than **five hundred of the brothers and sisters** at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.” Jesus appears to many **brothers in the faith**, to the disciples who follow him and do the will of God.

John 20: 17-18: Jesus said to Mary Magdalene, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and **your Father**, to my God and **your God**.” Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.” In

faith, we Christians have only **one Father** and we are all **adopted sons** of God, that is, we are **all brothers and sisters, disciples of Jesus**. Mary Magdalene makes a clear difference between being **disciples (brothers in faith)** and **blood brothers** of the same family. I John 3: 1-2: "See what great love has given us the Father to be called **children of God** - and we are. This is why the world does not know us: it is because he did not know God. **Beloved**, (a very fraternal expression) right now, we are **children of God**.

After the death of Jesus, the widowed Virgin Mary remains alone. It is not good for a woman, at that time, to be alone. And Jesus takes the lead, in John 19: 26-27: "When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your **son**," and to the **disciple**, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home." According to the Word of God, we know very well that the Apostle John is not **another son** of Mary, let alone a blood brother of Jesus. Because James is the son of Zebedee. In the light of this text, we know that we have a common father and mother, the **Eternal Father and the Virgin Mary, our Mother**.

Now we come to the heart of a text that is problematic and needs to be analyzed, since it names the brothers of Jesus. Mark 6: 3: "Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" The text of Matthew 27: 55-56 sheds light on the subject: "Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for his needs. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of **James and Joseph**, and the mother of **Zebedee's son**. And the apostle John, in his Gospel, 19,25 says more: "And near the cross of Jesus were his mother and the sister of his mother, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. So, James and Jos (Joset, Joseph) mentioned in the list of **Jesus' brothers**, have as parents Mary, wife of Cleophas. **James and José (Joseph, Joset) are not blood brothers of Jesus**.

The last name is Simon. In Mark 3, 16 we find out where from this Simon is : "So, Jesus establishes the Twelve: Peter is the name he gave to Simon." The Semitic name of the apostle Peter is "Symeon or Simon" (Acts 15,14 and 2 Peter 1: 1). According to John 1, 42 and Mark 3,16, it was Jesus himself who gave the nickname of Peter to Simon. Jude or Judas, son of James, according to Luke 6,16, is also called Thaddeus and is one of the twelve apostles chosen by Jesus. He is not son of Mary or Joseph.

## Conclusion

In the light of the Word of God, Catholic theology clearly states that Jesus did not have any brothers and sisters of blood, but many "**brothers and sisters**" in the faith who become God's **adopted daughters and sons** by keeping his commandments.

Mary, the Mother of Jesus, married to Joseph, had only one son and by the power of the Holy Spirit remained Virgin in his heart and body in the eyes of God, even after giving birth to Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God. Mary is the Mother of all **God's children** in Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit.