



## Mary and Perseverance

**“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, on your own intelligence do not rely” Prov 3: 56**

Mary, mother of God is not only our Mother but also a teacher. She is the role model of perseverance. She teaches us to trust God in all difficulties. One of the most valuable strengths Mary possessed was her ability to persevere.

Mary went through many trials in her life: She was only a teenager and had no husband when the angel appeared. She must have faced so much shame in the eyes of the people in her town, yet she accepted God's plan. When Mary and her other relatives went to see Jesus during his ministry, Jesus refused to see them and put his followers above his own family. She must have felt let down by Jesus, yet She supported Him in His ministry until the end. One of the apostles betrayed her Son, one denied Her Son, and others were cowards. Yet she stood with them and helped them to move forward in their mission. The persecution and death of Jesus were so horrific that nearly all of his followers abandoned him, yet Mary stood by Him. How was this be possible for Her? It is because She had complete trust in God. She trusted the Lord to the point where she would never question His authority. She never lost sight of the Lord. As a teacher, Mary instructs us on the importance of trust and perseverance. She teaches us to look to the future with total abandonment to God.

Mary portrays traits of holiness, piety, and humbleness. That is why God chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus. Mary listened to the angel with acceptance. She knew God had a plan for her. God has a plan for every one of us just like He had a plan for Mary. This is the month for some of us to start a new beginning. Some of us will start college, some

**St : Josephs Parish**

582 Hopes St Mountain View CA 94041

**Tamil Mass will be celebrated every second Saturday at 6.45 PM**

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of us will move from one state to the other or from one school to another. Some will start their career or might have changed to a new job. Some of our children will start a new school year with new teachers. For some of us things may not have turned out as we wanted. Yet the changes might have happened so fast. There will be lots of doubts and fears when there is a change in our life. What does Mary's example teach us about coping with this changes? She was moved from Nazareth to Bethlehem, fled to Egypt, and settled again in Nazareth. Situations can spin out of control. Or, conditions can drastically change. Consider the life of the Holy Family especially Mother Mary after the birth of Jesus as an example of life changed.

Let us remember that God always has a plan for us. He will not deny His children any necessity. All we have to do is with holiness, piety and humbleness trust Him as Mother Mary has taught us. Surrender to the will of God just like Mother Mary did. As we celebrate the feast of the Assumption of Mary (August 15th) and the Queenship of Mary (August 22nd) let us understand and imitate Mary as the role model of perseverance in all fears and doubts and suffering in our life.

The sorrowful mysteries of the rosary gives us a wonderful way to meditate on Christ's suffering during his passion. If possible, pray those mysteries, meditate on Mary during each of those mysteries, where she was, what she was enduring. It will be a wonderful way to celebrate Mary in this Month. Mary Mother of God, pray for us.

**- Agnes P Raj.**

### UpComing Events

#### Sep 12th 2nd Saturday Tamil Mass

**Time : 6:45 pm**

**Location : St. Joseph 's Church  
Mountain View , CA 94041.**

## Immaculate Heart of Mother Mary

Immaculate Heart of Mother Mary devotion started for the reparation of the sins of the mankind as it was revealed by the Mother Mary to the three children Francisco, Jacinta and Lucia to whom she appeared at Fatima, Portugal, in 1917. If we read the bible we know Mother Mary said few words throughout the bible. She had a tendency of keeping things in her heart as we read in the bible **"Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart."** (Luke 2:19) and **"His mother meanwhile kept all these things in her heart."** (Luke 2:51) Her pleasures and her sorrows everything she kept in her heart without advertising it publicly. A clean heart kept things quiet at all situations even after seeing her son was tortured and crucified in front of her. We never see such a good heart in a selfish world where we blame God and other humans when we suffer failure, loss or when we do not get what we wanted. We see God as a giver of power and wealth without giving importance to a holy life. Did Mother Mary live as a Millionaire? If we pray to Mother Mary to bless us to be a Millionaire then Mother will reply us "Sorry son, I was not a Millionaire".

As Jesus said **"A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of"** (Luke 6:45). If we are doing good it means our heart is filled with good stuff. If we are doing evil then our heart is filled with evil stuff. Our speech also measured in the same way. Our speech is good if our heart is good and it is bad if our heart is bad.

What kind of evils can fill a human heart? Jesus answers **"For out of the heart come evil thoughts - murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what defile a person"** (Matthew 15:19-20). Without taking any action to remove all these evil thoughts from our hearts and to pray for those affected by these sins our Marian devotions are only eye wash and it is for our own name and fame and to advertise about our group only according to me. As we read in the first sentence Immaculate Heart of Mother Mary celebration is to pray for the sins of the mankind.

We are celebrating many festivals to honor Mother Mary. Did we ever pray for the sins of the mankind in these festivals? We pray to Mother Mary for our own blessings and miracles to bless my family, to bless my children and to bless my group and never worried about others. Did we ever pray either in our personal prayers or in a festival for the sins happening in this world? Moreover our festivals are turning into staging places to show off our cultural talents and also they are being used to compete with each other to prove who has large crowd, who is celebrating in a very grand manner, who is celebrating more number of days or similar attractions without giving any importance to original meaning of the devotion. All we want is to attract and entertain people in the name of festivals. We never cared for the feelings of Mother Mary to pray for the sinners. We pretty much care for what I can get from Mother Mary instead of what I can give to our Mother for her better feeling.

Did Mother Mary tell the three children at Fatima, Portugal "Celebrate my festival in a very grand manner by showing off all your talents and money"? Is our Mother really glorified by our grand celebrations spending huge amount of money or are we insulting our Mother? If we really know what our Mother asked us to pray for I would say our grand celebrations are a shame for us and for our Mother too. Did we ever say "Come on let's gather together in these festival days to pray for the sins of the world as revealed by our Mother at Fatima"? We won't because it is not looking good and entertaining in human eyes that see only our outside decorations. If we do that our festivals may not be very attractive but will be looking great in the eyes of our Mother and God.

— Leenus Rich



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