



**St : Josephs Parish**

582 Hopes St Mountain View CA 94041

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

[www.tamilcatholic.org](http://www.tamilcatholic.org)



## **St. Margaret Mary Alacoque**

On First Friday the June 3rd, the church celebrated the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Do you know how and who was responsible for establishing it? Jesuit priest Blessed Claude and St. Margaret Mary Alacoque jointly were responsible for the devotion and the feast to spread around the world.

Those who attended the special feast mass on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, at Our Lady of Peace Church, Santa Clara, had the privilege of being individually blessed with the relics of Blessed Claude and St. Margaret Mary Alacoque.

Margaret was born on July 22, 1647 in Burgundy, France to Philiberte and Claude Alacoque. Her father was a notary. The parents lived a virtuous life. They sent Margaret to the Poor Clares School at Charolles. Even at young age Margaret had a great devotion for the Blessed Sacrament and spent time in prayer and contemplation. She loved the peace and order of the convent life, and the nuns were so impressed by her devotion that she was allowed to make her First Communion at the age of 9. Then onwards she started practicing severe mortifications until she had a paralytic attack. From 10 years onward she was bedridden for 5 years. At this time, she made a vow to the Blessed Virgin to consecrate herself to religious life and soon got healthy. At age 20, she started having visions of Crucified Christ. At age 24, she joined the Visitation Convent at Paray-le-Monial. She made her final vows the next year. She was very intelligent and made good judgment. She lived a humble life. During this time, she inflicted great sufferings in the cloister and she was cured many times by the Lord. Jesus appeared to her several times and directed her. She was rejected by the community for her visions & sufferings she took upon her. Mother Superior was not convinced and asked her to live a normal life. She received support from her Confessor Blessed Claude La Colombiere. The Jesuit Blessed Claude was convinced of her visions and wrote about many of her revelations. He left the convent to spread the devotion in England. He came back in 1681 to the convent and died the next year. His writings influenced many of the nonbelievers in the convent.

In one of the visions, Christ asked her to establish special devotion to the Sacred Heart and that became the Nine Fridays and the Holy Hour. The Lord also asked her to setup a feast day, which became the Feast of the Sacred Heart that falls on the Friday after Corpus Christi. She was inspired by Christ to pray lying prostrate with her face down to the ground from 11 till midnight on the eve of the First Friday and receive Holy Communion on the First Friday. She was consumed by

the love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Christ called her "The Beloved Disciple of the Sacred Heart" and "heirress of all its treasures". She wrote many books with Sacred Heart of Jesus as the central theme. Her teachings invoked great devotion to the Sacred Heart.

When Mother Melin took over the convent, Margaret gained her support. She promoted Margaret as her Assistant. Margaret later became Novice Mistress. She made the convent privately observe the feast of Sacred Heart of Jesus starting in 1686. And 2 years later, a chapel was built for the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Paray-le-Monial. Soon the feast of the Sacred Heart spread to the other Visitation Convents. After severe and minute examinations of her visions, devotions and teachings, the Sacred Heart Congregation recognized her heroic virtues. While severely ill, she refused all medications and kept repeating "What have I in heaven and what do I desire on earth, but Thee alone, O My God" and died on October 17, 1690, pronouncing the Holy Name of Jesus. In March 1824, Pope Leo XII pronounced her Venerable and in September 1864, Pope Pius IX declared her Blessed. When her tomb was canonically opened in July 1830, 2 miraculous cures happened. In 1920, Pope Benedict XV canonized her. In spite of much opposition, the feast was allowed in 1765 and extended to the world in 1856 by Pope Pius IX. In 1929, the Sacred Heart feast was raised to the highest rank. St. Margaret's incorrupt heart and brain have been preserved in a wax and metal figurine of her body and can be seen in the convent chapel of the Order of the Visitation at Paray, France. Pilgrims from all over the world visit her and many received remarkable favors. Her feast is observed on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Prayer:**

O Lord Jesus Christ, who didst wondrously open the unsearchable riches of Thy Heart to blessed Margaret Mary, the virgin: grant unto us, by her merits and our imitation of her, that we may love Thee in all things and above all things, and may be worthy to have our everlasting dwelling in the same Sacred Heart: who lives and reigns, world without end. Amen.

- Joe Natar

## **UpComing Events**

### **July 9th 2nd Saturday Mass**

**Time : 6:45 pm**  
**Location : St. Joseph 's Church Mountain View , CA 94041.**

### A Righteous and Blameless Father

June is the month we celebrate father's day. So I write one of my favorite father Noah. When God destroyed the earth by water he spared only one family. Except that family all human being died. It was Noah and his family. We read from bible that **"Noah found favor in the eyes of Lord"** (Genesis 6:8). In a world where we do all sort of things (good and bad) to find favor in human eyes Noah found favor in the eyes of God. What did Noah do to find favor in the eyes of God? It is great question. Did Noah worship God every day? Did he fast and pray? Did he strictly follow all religious rules and regulations? He might be or might not be. We don't know but the bible says **"Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God"** (Genesis 6:9). He was righteous and blameless among the people of his time. All other people also worshipped God and followed all rules but Noah was above all because of his righteousness and blamelessness. Righteous means his actions are straight forward or transparent and not corrupt. There is no hidden agenda in his actions to cheat people or to benefit him or his family. Blameless means he did no harm to anyone or without any violent behavior towards anyone. This is Noah and his characters.

Let's see what are the characters of the rest of the people lived in the world with Noah. We read from the bible **"Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways"** (Genesis 6:11-12). The rest of the people also worshipped God and followed all rules and regulations but their outside life was completely different than Noah. As we read their ways were not straight forward. Their ways were corrupted for money, for name and fame or for any other worldly things. They were very violent, fighting, cheating and killing each other. We have to note that the earth was corrupt in God's sight not in human eyes. For human eyes they all were the same but in God's sight Noah was unique.

We can see two groups of people here and their behavior. Noah and his behavior and the rest of the world's people and their behavior. Even today the same two groups of people exist in this world no matter whatever holiest denomination or group we follow. We don't give much importance to honesty, transparency or accountability. All we care about worship even by doing corruption, violence, cheating or misleading people.

As servants of God if we are unable to be honest and transparent to our fellow servants then how do we show our honesty and transparency to the one we serve and the one who sees in and out of everything (God).

We could not show our righteous, blameless and faithfulness in our one or two year's terms while serving for God. We had many issues and complaints against our names but the bible says Noah lived 950 years. I am wondering how was it possible for him to live righteous, blameless and to walk faithfully with God for 950 years. He must have been a very dedicated man / father.

While we honor our fathers in this month let us take the life of Noah as an example and try to live righteous, blameless and to walk faithfully with God. Let us pray to God to give us everything needed to prove our righteous, blameless and faithfulness to God and to our fellow people of God. Let us wish all the fathers that they should find favors in the eyes of God by their words, actions and thoughts.

**Wish you all a very happy Father's day !**

**— Leenus Rich**



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