



St : Josephs Parish
582 Hopes St Mountain View CA 94041

Tamil Mass will be celebrated every second Saturday at 6.45 PM



Life Of Mother Mary

The Mother, of God, Mother of Jesus, wife of St. Joseph, and the greatest of all Christian saints. The Virgin Mother "was, after her Son, exalted by divine grace above all angels and men". Mary is venerated with a special cult, called by St. Thomas Aquinas, hyperdulia, as the highest of God's creatures. The principal events of her life are celebrated as liturgical feasts of the universal Church. Mary's life and role in the history of salvation is prefigured in the Old Testament, while the events of her life are recorded in the New Testament. Traditionally, she was declared the daughter of Sts. Joachim and Anne. Born in Jerusalem, Mary was presented in the Temple and took a vow of virginity. Living in Nazareth, Mary was visited by the archangel Gabriel, who announced to her that she would become the Mother of Jesus, by the Holy Spirit. She became betrothed to St. Joseph and went to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, who was bearing St. John the Baptist. Acknowledged by Elizabeth as the Mother of God, Mary intoned the Magnificat. When Emperor Augustus declared a census throughout the vast Roman Empire, Mary and St. Joseph went to Bethlehem, his city of lineage, as he belonged to the House of David. There Mary gave birth to Jesus and was visited by the Three Kings. Mary and Joseph presented Jesus in the Temple, where St. Simeon rejoiced and Mary received word of sorrows to come later. Warned to flee, St. Joseph and Mary went to Egypt to escape the wrath of King Herod. They remained in Egypt until King Herod died and then returned to Nazareth. Nothing is known of Mary's life during the next years except for a visit to the Temple of Jerusalem, at which time Mary and Joseph sought the young Jesus, who was in the Temple with the learned elders. The first recorded miracle of Jesus was performed at a wedding in Cana, and Mary was instrumental in calling Christ's attention to the need. Mary was present at the Crucifixion in Jerusalem, and there she was given into John's care. The belief that Mary's body was assumed into heaven is one of the oldest traditions of the Catholic Church. The feast of the Immaculate Conception is

celebrated on December 8. The birthday of Mary is an old feast in the Church, celebrated on September 8 since the seventh century. Other feasts that commemorate events in the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary are listed in the Appendices. Pope Pius XII dedicated the entire human race to Mary in 1944. The Church has long taught that Mary is truly the Mother of God. St. Paul observed that "God sent His Son, born of a woman," expressing the union of the human and the divine in Christ. As Christ possesses two natures, human and divine, Mary was the Mother of God in his human nature. She was chosen by God the Father to be the Mother of his Son; God the Holy Spirit chose her to be his virginal spouse for the Incarnation of the Son; and God the Son chose her to be his mother, the means of incarnating into the world for the purposes of the redemption of humanity. This Queen is also our Mother. While she is not our Mother in the physical sense, she is called a spiritual mother, for she conceives, gives birth, and nurtures the spiritual lives of grace for each person. As Mediatrix of All Graces, she is ever present at the side of each person, giving nourishment and hope, from the moment of spiritual birth at Baptism to the moment of death. The confidence that each person should have in Mary was expressed by Pope Pius IX in the encyclical *Ubi prius*: "The foundation of all our confidence. . . is found in the Blessed Virgin Mary. For God has committed to Mary the treasury of all good things, in order that everyone may know that through her are obtained every hope, every grace, and all salvation. For this is his will, that we obtain everything through Mary."

Amen.

UpComing Events

Oct 10th Saturday : Special Mass

Time : 5 :30 pm

Location : St. Joseph 's Church

Mountain View , CA 94041.

Our Lady Of Good Health

Our lady of good health, Arokia Matha or our lady of Velankanni devotion started in the times of Sixteenth century based on the three miracles happened at the Velankanni site. The first miracle happened to a shepherd boy delivering milk to a nearby house. Along the way he met a beautiful woman holding a child, who asked for some milk for the little one. After giving her the milk, he continued on his way, and upon making the delivery discovered that the jug was now completely full of fresh, cool milk.

The second miracle happened when a beautiful woman with a young boy in her arms appeared to a young crippled boy selling buttermilk. The little boy asked for some buttermilk, and after he drank it, the woman asked the boy selling buttermilk to visit a gentleman in the next town and ask him to build a chapel in her honor at that location. The boy set out quickly and realized that he was no longer lame. A small thatched chapel was quickly built in honor of Our Lady of Good Health, called in Tamil "Arokia Matha."

The third miracle happened when a Portuguese ship sailing from Macao to Sri Lanka was caught in a storm in the Bay of Bengal. They invoked the help of the Blessed Virgin under her title "Star of the Sea". The storm subsided and the 150 men on board were saved. It was September 8, the Feast of the Nativity of Mary. In thanksgiving, the sailors rebuilt the Shrine to Our Lady of Good Health, and continued to enhance it whenever their voyages brought them to the area.

Mainly because of these three miracles every year approximately 2 million people from various religious beliefs visit Velankanni for our mother's blessing and miracles. It is sad to say that Our Lady of Velankanni devotion is being projected to receive blessing and miracles only. Today worldwide we see Arokia Matha as a giver of good health & wealth and nothing more and wherever we see Our Lady of Velankanni church the first question comes to our mind is "Are miracles happening here?"

Everyday large number of people visits Our Lady of Velankanni churches all over the world. Sick people go there and pray for good health. Daily laborers go there and pray for a better life. Middle class and upper class people go there and pray there for more money and even more luxurious life style than what they have right now. It is even sad to know that there is no written evidence or document for the three miracles happened at Velankanni

and the Holy Father did not approve these apparitions so far. The request is still pending for his decision.

Our Hindu and Muslim brothers and sisters also go to Sabarimalai and Mecca & Medina respectively and pray for blessings and miracles and they also receive blessings and miracles. If we worship our lady of Velankanni only for the blessings and miracles then there is no difference between us and our Hindu & Muslim brothers. We Christians the followers of Christ should stand out from them by our holy life (not showing off our blessings and miracles or not by our way of worship). The life Jesus lived and set an example for us that is what we should aim for. Can someone see mother Mary or Jesus Christ by observing my life?

We give no importance to the way our mother lived (a simple and humble life), her patience, her perseverance, her humility, her loyalty to her call of God, her obedience to God, her life without name and fame, her intercessions for our sins, the prayer she said "I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). Without asking her to give us anyone of these qualities we waste our prayers by asking for worldly blessings and we argue who promotes Our Lady of Velankanni in the bay area. Do we think our mother is really promoted by our grand celebrations with a large gathering of people from different ethnical backgrounds? Moreover our celebrations are aimed to prove who the boss is and not to serve the Lord. I would say our mother is promoted only when we pray the way our mother prayed and when we live the way she lived.

Instead of running here and there to look for blessings and miracles let us pray and live as our mother did. That is a real glory to her. A true worshipper of our mother will imitate her in our daily life without giving importance to the outside decorations and everyone sees his/her life will really know he/she honors our mother.

Our Lady of Velankanni bless us all to pray & live as you have prayed and lived

— Leenus Rich



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Up Coming Event



Oct 10th 2015

**BAY AREA TAMIL CATHOLIC
COMMUNITY
&
ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH
TAMIL MINISTRY
CORDIALLY
INVITES YOU
TO CELEBRATE ITS TWELFTH
ANNIVERSARY
SANGAMAM
(Solemn Mass, Procession,
Cultural events, Dinner)**



Please sign up for the event

[CLICK HERE](#)