



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



Mary the Mother of Church

From the Annunciation to the Crucifixion of her Son, Mary can be seen as God's ultimate validation of free will. The Virgin Mary's obedience to the will of God as conveyed to her in the angel Gabriel's message was no less voluntary in its affirmation than the disobedience of the virgin Eve had been in its negation. In the 2nd century St. Irenaeus the Bishop of Lyon and a second generation disciple from the Apostle John wrote: "...so also Mary, betrothed to a man but nevertheless still a virgin, being obedient, was made the cause of salvation for herself and for the whole human race. Thus, the knot of Eve's disobedience was loosed by the obedience of Mary. What the virgin Eve had bound in unbelief, the Virgin Mary loosed through faith." Against Heresies, 3.22.4, Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons.

Mary, as the first human to kiss the face of God and the first to believe in Jesus as her Savior, took her place in Salvation History as the first Christian. She is also the one disciple of Jesus who didn't flee or doubt when all the others fled and doubted, but who stayed and accepted to the very end the burden of being under the Cross. Down through the ages the weeping Mary of the Cross witnessing her son's torture and death stands in solidarity with all believers who also suffer and live under the shadow of the Cross.

This is Mary's role in Salvation History: ever virgin and yet fruitful mother. It is Mary, a daughter of the Old Covenant, who is not only the bearer of Christ in the Annunciation but Mary also "labors" in prayer in the Upper Room with the other disciples for the birth of the Church at Pentecost for the New Covenant believers will become her spiritual children. She stands as the Christian model, which we should all emulate. From her obedience at the Annunciation to the events of Christ's passion she illustrates for us a model of Christian virtue, faith and obedience as she remained true to Christ and His word. Her fidelity shows us that true faith can be preserved in one individual and down through history the Church has honored her for this by considering her the mother of the true remnant of Israel in the New Covenant Church. It

has been as Mary prophesized, filled with the Holy Spirit, "Yes, from now onwards all generations will call me blessed!"

After the descend of God the Holy Spirit at the second great Pentecost [the first was the revelation of God at Mt. Sinai], the Apostle John spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ first with Peter in Judea and later in Asia Minor, serving many years as the Bishop of Ephesus. According to tradition Mary accompanied John to Ephesus and lived there several years. Unfortunately the years after Christ's Resurrection were years of intense persecution for the early Church, first from the Jews and later from the Romans. Many documents written before Christianity was protected by the Edict of Milan [early 4th century] were destroyed. For example the great Church Father Origen wrote over 6,000 books of which only a few copies now survive. The great library at Caesarea in Palestine and the Church library at Alexandria, Egypt, which we know contained numerous works from the first centuries of the Church, were destroyed in the 7th century AD Moslem invasions just as the great libraries in Rome were destroyed by successive barbarian invasions in the 5th century AD. The result is that we do not have reliable information on Mary's later years.

While Scripture reveals nothing about Mary's death, St. John Damascene [died 749] recorded a story reportedly shared at the Council of Chalcedon in 451AD that Mary had died in the presence of the Apostles but when the tomb was opened they found it empty, "wherefrom the Apostles concluded that the body was taken up to heaven." From this testimony the Church has taught that Mary was assumed bodily and now tastes the Resurrection for which all Christians hope. This teaching is one of the four dogmas, or truths, of Mary held by the Church.

UpComing Events

June 11th 2nd Saturday Tamil Mass

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

Mothers with full dedication

As we celebrate Mother's day I would like to write about few mothers from the bible. The first one is Hannah mother of Samuel, wife of Elkanah. Elkanah had two wives one was Hannah and the other was Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none (1 Samuel 1:1-2)

Hannah had no children for a long time. Every year Elkanah family went to the city of Shiloh to worship and sacrifice to the Lord Almighty. Because the Lord had closed Hannah's womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her. This went on year after year. We can understand it from our own fights to prove who the greatest is even while serving for God and inside the church. Even within the church premises we fight and walkout. So we can imagine how we will behave and treat others outside of the church or when communicating through email. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the Lord, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat. Hannah was very sad. "In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the Lord, weeping bitterly. And she made a vow, saying, "Lord Almighty, if you will only look on your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the Lord for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head." (1 Samuel 1:10-11)

If we pay attention to her prayer she said Lord give me one child and I will give him to you. She did not ask Lord give me two children and I will keep one and I will give one to serve you. She is committed to give 100% to God not expecting anything in return, not like our prayers. Very often our prayers are like this "Lord I will offer you \$100 but in return you have to give me 10 fold which is \$1000". We treat God as a trader or a gambler. I give you X and you give me Y. If we want to multiply our wealth we don't need God. We can go to an investment or a wealth management firm. They will manage our money and will give us the ROI (return on investment).

Hannah offered his child to God without expecting anything in return but God knows everything as He said "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9). So the Lord gave Hannah three sons and two daughters later. She asked for one but she got five more. She did not pray "Lord I give you X and you give me Y".

If we read the New Testament Jesus also applauded the 100% commitment given by people. We read from the book of Mark "Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on." (Mark 12:41-44)

In a world where we seek God to multiply our wealth, the poor widow's offering may look very foolishness in human eyes but in the eyes of Jesus she offered more than anyone else. Jesus saw the 100% commitment of the poor widow. She had nothing in her hand to live now. So when we offer, Jesus will look whether we are giving out of our abundance or out of our poverty. In human eyes out of our abundance may look good but in the eyes of Jesus out of our poverty is the greatest. Out of our poverty proves our dedication, commitment and trust in God. As Jesus said no one can serve two masters. So we cannot serve for God and Money, either this side or that side not on both the sides. That is the 100% commitment Jesus is looking for.

If we say God has blessed me with great wealth then Jesus will say "Sorry son, you are not on my side". It is good to say God has blessed me to build His kingdom not for my name and fame or to show off my status or to build up my group or my kingdom.

While we honor our mothers in this month let us wish them to live with a 100% commitment to God as Hannah the Mother of Samuel did or the poor widow who put everything she had into the treasury.

— Leenus Rich



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