



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

St : Josephs Parish
582 Hopes St Mountain View CA 94041

Tamil Mass will be celebrated every second Saturday at 6.45 PM



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 8th 2nd Saturday Tamil Mass

Time : 6:30 pm
Location : St. Joseph 's Church
Mountain View , CA 94041.

Our Lady of Sorrows

Our Lady of Sorrows, Sorrowful Mother, Mother of Sorrows, Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows, Our Lady of the Seven Dolours and other names of sorrows are names by which the Blessed Virgin Mary is referred to in relation to sorrows in her life.

The Seven Sorrows of Mary are a popular Roman Catholic devotion. In common religious imagery, the Blessed Virgin Mary is portrayed in a sorrowful and lacrimation affect, with seven daggers piercing her heart, often bleeding. Devotional prayers that consist of meditation began to elaborate on her Seven Sorrows based on the prophecy of Simeon as we read in bible “..... And a sword will pierce your own soul too” (Luke 2:35). The seven sorrows or seven dolours of Mother Mary are given below. These are the places or incidents happened in Mother Mary’s life which caused her severe stress or pain. These can be easily confused with the sorrowful mysteries of the rosary but they both are different.

- The Prophecy of Simeon. (Luke 2:34–35)
- The escape and Flight into Egypt. (Matthew 2:13)
- The Loss of the Child Jesus in the Temple of Jerusalem. (Luke 2:43–45)
- Jesus carrying the Cross meeting Mother Mary
- The Crucifixion of Jesus on Mount Calvary. (John 19:25)
- The Piercing of the Side of Jesus, and His Descent from the Cross. (Matthew 27:57–59)
- The Burial of Jesus by Joseph of Arimathea. (John 19:40–42)

The very first time Mother Mary would have felt the pain when Joseph and Mary came to Jerusalem to offer the baby Jesus to the Lord. At that time Simeon prophesied that “..... And a sword will pierce your own soul too” (Luke 2:35). During that time Mother Mary would have no idea what Simeon is referring to, still it would have been difficult for her to digest as if someone says something negative against us. Still Mother Mary did not complain, argue or shout with Simeon for prophesying against her.

The next hard time for her is when fleeing or escaping to Egypt when King Herod was searching for baby Jesus to kill Him. Joseph and Mary got up in the night and started their journey towards Egypt. They did not have much time to prepare everything for the journey. They left all their possessions and went forward. Joseph and Mother Mary did not murmur to

God that how they would survive in the new place and in the new country. They both gave importance to the word of God than their own comfort, possessions and friends. In a world where we worship God to get more comfortable life, to have more possessions and to socialize with more friends, Mother Mary and Joseph were ready to give up anything for God. They both trusted God, obeyed the word of God, and never blamed anyone in their hard times.

Next Mother Mary would have been in stress when they found out that child Jesus was lost in the temple of Jerusalem. We can think how painful it is if we lose our own child for few hours or few days. We will have many questions and scenarios running in our mind and we will be looking all over the places. They found Jesus after three days. Those three days should have been very stressful for the Mother still she continued her mission of bringing up Jesus without abandoning her mission.

Next four events where Mother Mary was heartbroken are related to Jesus’ suffering and death. We can imagine how painful it is for a mother to see her son suffering, bleeding, carrying the heavy cross, crucified as one of the thieves, even after His death His side was pierced and finally buried by a stranger. She might have thought that Jesus did many miracles, fed thousands of people, and brought alive people but how come no one came forward to help Him, even His disciples ran away. Many times we also face the same situations in our lives and we complain, murmur, shout and blame others but our Mother never complained, shouted or blamed anyone. In a world where we seek God for happiness, good health and wealth Mother Mary considered sufferings also part of her mission or part of God’s plan for her life. If she would have thought that she would get luxurious life, name and fame, and more friends to socialize for being the mother of Jesus she would have aborted her mission at the first point of her suffering.

While we meditate the sorrows of our mother let us take her life as an example that we not only seek God only for good health and wealth but also during our hard times let’s keep Him in our lives as a good friend as it is easy to obey God when everything goes well but it is very hard to seek God when situations are unfavorable.

The feast of Our Lady of Sorrows is liturgically celebrated every 15th of September. Our Lady of Sorrows pray for the families who are facing unfavorable situations or sufferings.