

# MARIAN SHRINES IN THE PHILIPPINES

*(Special DMI Newsette Supplement in Celebration of Flores de Mayo, May, 2021)*

## FOREWORD

Dear sisters,

For us Daughters of Mary Immaculate, every month is Mary's month. Especially as we celebrate 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines, let us not forget Mary's role in bringing forth Jesus into this world. Let us reflect on her many titles which should serve as our model and inspiration.

Included in this supplement are the following:


1. Mary's Marian shrines in the Philippines – in this time of pandemic, view them and make spiritual reflections.
2. A one-year calendar of Mary's feast days
3. Mary's life with Christ (ref. Marian Prayer Book, Prayers and Devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary)

Both 1 and 2 were compiled and prepared by Sis. Juliet Cruz, Chairperson for Membership with the help of Sis. Emelie Ramos.

Also recommended reading is an e-book "Mary, A Life Close to Jesus" by Jose Antonio Loarte which contains reflections on the 20 most important events in the life of Our Lady in light of the Gospel and the Church's Tradition.

Please find time to read them and be inspired.

Sincerely,

  
SIS RUBY MACARIO  
International Regent







## MARY, MEDIATRIX OF ALL GRACES

Lipa City, Batangas • Feast Day: May 31, September 12

**Mary, Mediatrix of All Grace** (Spanish: María, Mediadora de Toda-Gracia; Tagalog: María, Tagapamagitan ng Lahat ng Biyaya) is a Marian apparition that allegedly took place in the Carmelite Monastery of Lipa, Batangas, Philippines, to a former Carmelite postulant, Teresita Castillo. The original statue associated with the apparition is currently enshrined at the monastery.

The Blessed Virgin Mary is honored under the title Mediatrix of all graces. It has its origins in Belgium where devotion under this title began, and the same Marian title was consecrated by Catholic bishops in China from 1946. The title given at Lipa was "Mediatrix of All Grace". In Lipa, it is singular and upper case, meaning - a proper noun. Sr. Teresita has confirmed that "All-Grace" refers to Jesus or God (whom we refer too, as "All Holy," "Almighty," "All Knowing").



## NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LA PAZ Y BUENVIAJE

Antipolo City, Rizal • Feast Day: May 03

**Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage** (Spanish: Nuestra Señora de la Paz y Buen Viaje and Filipino: Mahal na Birhen ng Kapayapaan at Mabuting Paglalakbay) also known as Our Lady of Antipolo and the Virgin of Antipolo (Filipino: Birhen ng Antipolo), is a 17th-century Roman Catholic wooden image of the Blessed Virgin Mary venerated in the Philippines. The image, a Black Madonna that represents the Immaculate Conception, is enshrined in Antipolo Cathedral in the Sierra Madre mountains east of Metro Manila.

The image was brought to the country by Governor-General Juan Niño de Tabora from Mexico via the galleon El Almirante in 1626. His safe voyage across the Pacific Ocean was attributed to the image, which was given the title of "Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage". It was substantiated later by six other successful voyages of the Manila-Acapulco Galleons with the image aboard as its patroness.

The statue is one of the most celebrated images of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Philippines, gaining devotees since the mid-19th century, having been mentioned by José Rizal in his writings. From May to July each year, the image attracts millions of pilgrims from all over the country and abroad. Pope Pius XI authorized her canonical coronation on 13 June 1925, which occurred on 28 November 1926.



## NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LA PEÑAFRANCIA

Naga City, Camarines Sur • Feast Day: 3rd Sunday of September

**Our Lady of Peñafrancia** (Spanish: Nuestra Señora de Peñafrancia in the Philippines, and Nuestra Señora de la Peña de Francia or Virgen de la Peña de Francia in Spain) is a wooden statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary venerated in Naga City, Bicol, Philippines. The image comes from the original image enshrined in Salamanca, Spain. It is currently housed at the Peñafrancia Basilica where every September is held for the novena festivities in honor of the image as the principal Patroness and Queen of Bicol.

Pope Pius XI granted the image a Canonical coronation on 20 September 1924 via his Apostolic delegate, Monsignor Guillermo Piani. On 3 December 2015, a mosaic image of the Virgin Mary under this title was officially enshrined at the Vatican Gardens for the 14th slot at the pontifical mandate of Pope Francis. The ceremony was attended by former President of the Philippines, Benigno Aquino III who unveiled the image with honors.



## LA NUESTRA SEÑORA DEL SANTISIMO ROSARIO DE LA NAVAL DE MANILA

Quezon City, MM • Feast Day: 2nd Sunday of October

**Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary- La Naval de Manila** (Spanish: Nuestra Señora del Santísimo Rosario- La Naval de Manila; Tagalog: Mahal na Ina ng Santo Rosaryo ng La Naval de Manila; commonly known as Our Lady of La Naval de Manila, Santo Rosario, or La Gran Señora) is a venerated title of the Blessed Virgin Mary associated with the same image in the Philippines.

Filipino Catholics claim that the Virgin's intercession under this title helped successfully repulse invading forces of the Protestant Dutch Republic during the Battles of La Naval de Manila, in a fashion similar to the Battle of Lepanto of 1571. Pious believers also credit the Virgin through the icon with maintaining the Catholic faith in Philippines, which has the religious moniker "El Pueblo Amante de María" ("The Nation in Love with Mary").

Pope Pius X granted the image a canonical coronation on 5 October 1907. The Philippine government in 2009 designated the icon and its shrine as a National Cultural Treasure, making it one of the country's Cultural Properties.



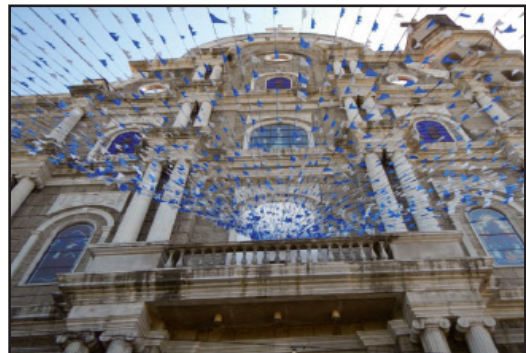
## NUESTRA SEÑORA DEL SANTÍSSIMO ROSARIO DE MANAOAG

Manaoag, Pangasinan • Feast Day: 3rd Wednesday after Resurrection Day

**Our Lady of Manaoag** (formal title: Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary of Manaoag; Spanish: Nuestra Señora del Santísimo Rosario de Manaoag) is a Roman Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary venerated in Manaoag, Pangasinan, the Philippines.

The ivory and silver image which bears its title dates from the 16th century and is presently enshrined within the Minor Basilica of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary of Manaoag. The shrine is a major pilgrimage site in the country and is administered by the Order of Preachers within the Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan.

Pope Pius XI granted a Canonical Coronation to the image on 22 April 1926, while Pope Benedict XVI raised her sanctuary in equal indulgences to the Basilica of Saint Mary Major on 21 June 2011. Under this Marian title, the Blessed Virgin Mary is invoked as patroness of the sick, helpless and needy.[1] The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary of Manaoag is celebrated on two feast days: the third Wednesday after Easter and first Sunday of October.



## NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LA SOLEDAD DE PORTA VAGA

Cavite City, Cavite • Feast Day: 2nd Sunday of November

**Our Lady of Solitude of Porta Vaga** (Spanish: Nuestra Señora de la Soledad de Porta Vaga, Filipino: Birhen ng Soledad ng Porta Vaga), or commonly Our Lady of Porta Vaga, is a Marian title associated with a religious icon which depicts the Virgin Mary as Our Lady of Solitude.

The oldest dated Marian painting in the Philippines and the Patroness of the Province of Cavite is permanently enshrined in the Diocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Solitude of Porta Vaga, San Roque Church in Cavite City.

The image was ceremoniously crowned on 17 November 1978, having been long disputed as illegitimate due to lack of documentation in Rome. In 27 September 2017, the image was designated as a National Cultural Treasure of the Philippines. On 19 March 2018, the image was granted an official decree of canonical coronation by Pope Francis.



## NUESTRA SEÑORA DE NIEVA

Caloocan City, Metro Manila • Feast Day: September 08

**Nuestra Señora de Nieva de Caloocan** - The Queen and Mother of Caloocan City. In the busy city of Caloocan, known for its role in history during the Philippine Revolution and one of the most progressive cities of the National Capital Region, lies one of the most notable places where the faith is kept alive for centuries, the Cathedral of San Roque, the Seat of the Diocese of Caloocan. The Cathedral of San Roque in Caloocan houses two of the most important Patrons of the City, the titular Patron St. Roch of Montpellier and the Queen and Mother of the City, Nuestra Señora de Nieva de Caloocan.

The Virgin of Nieva of Caloocan garnered much devotion for centuries yet for sometime around the 1970's, controversy and confusion arose due to the misinterpretation of her title that somehow contributed to the dwindling of the devotion to her. However, with the recent declaration of the current Bishop of Caloocan, the era of confusion finally ended when he released a decree to correct the errors of the past that cost the devotion to the Virgin of Caloocan and in the hopes to restore the devotion to the Virgin de Nieva of Caloocan to its former glory.



## NUESTRA SEÑORA DE PIAT

Piat, Cagayan • Feast Day: July 02

**Our Lady of Piat** (formally: Nuestra Señora de Piat) is a 16th-century Roman Catholic icon of the Blessed Virgin Mary enshrined in Piat, in the province of Cagayan, Philippines. It is the town's patroness and is one of the most venerated Marian images of Mary in the Philippines, referred to as the "Mother of Cagayan".

The image, one of the oldest in the country, is credited with many miracles including the end of a drought that threatened famine in the Itawes homeland of the Cagayan Valley where the shrine is located. Piat is dubbed as the Pilgrimage Center of Cagayan Valley because of the thousands of devotees and tourists who flock to the image.

The recorded provenance of the image of Our Lady of Piat began in Macau, from where it was brought to Manila in 1604.[2] Its first home was the convent of Old Santo Domingo Church in Intramuros. From Manila she was taken to Nueva Segovia (now Lal-lo) to aid in the evangelization of the Itawes homeland, covering the towns of Tabang, Malaweg, Tuao (now Tuao) and Piat until it was brought to and stayed in Piat for five years. No precise description of the image is given by its historians, though it is often noted that is "of talla (sculpture)" and constructed from papier-mâché.

On December 26, 1923, the image was solemnly translated from the Church of Santo Domingo to the new sanctuary. The following morning, a High Mass was sung and the sanctuary solemnly blessed.





## NUESTRA SEÑORA LA VIRGEN DEL PILAR

Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Sur • Feast Day: October 12

**Our Lady of the Pillar** (Spanish: Nuestra Señora del Pilar) is the name given to the Blessed Virgin Mary in the context of the traditional belief that Mary, while living in Jerusalem, supernaturally appeared to the Apostle James the Greater in AD 40 while he was preaching in what is now Spain. Those who adhere to this belief consider this appearance to be the only recorded instance of Mary exhibiting the mystical phenomenon of bilocation. Among Catholics, it is also considered the first Marian apparition, being unique due to having occurred while Mary was still living on Earth.

Our Lady of the Pillar is considered the Patroness of Aragon and its capital Zaragoza, and of the Spanish Civil Guard. Her feast day is 12 October, which coincides with Columbus Day, the national holiday of Spain.

In Zamboanga City, the Virgin of the Pillar has been venerated for almost four centuries as the patroness of the city and in the Archdiocese of Zamboanga. The bas relief of her atop the eastern gate of the 17th-century Spanish military fort dedicated to the Virgin, Fort Pilar (Full name: Royal Fort of our Virgin Lady of the Pillar of Zaragoza, El Fuerte Real de Nuestra Señora Virgen del Pilar de Zaragoza), is now a Catholic Marian shrine. The city also has a street named after her – Pilar Street.



## NUESTRA SEÑORA DE ARANZAZU

San Mateo, Rizal • Feast Day: September 09

In the historic and quiet town of San Mateo, Rizal, known for its kakanin, there is a unique shrine that is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary in a very unique title that can only be found in San Mateo, the miraculous image of Nuestra Señora de Aranzazu.

The **Virgin of Aranzazu** became a beacon hope to the people of San Mateo for she is known as the advocate against natural calamities, especially typhoons and earthquakes, healer of the sick, comforter of the afflicted among others.

The Lady of Aranzazu depicts the apparition in 1469 as she stands in a thorn-tree with a small quadrilateral bell hanging on it. It includes the statue of the visionary Rodrigo de Balzategui in a kneeling position. The image is known for its unusual artistic posture, as the original image in Sanctuary of Arantzazu, in Oñate, Spain is a seated Madonna, yet stylized as standing posture when its devotion was first introduced to the Philippine islands based from the Mexican version of the Virgin of the same sobriquet venerated in that country. Another unique feature of the Virgin is that she holds an apple for it symbolizes the Blessed Virgin Mary as the New Eve for it was her that she restored life by being the Mother of the Author of Life - Our Lord Jesus Christ that Eve destroyed that led to Original Sin that brings death to all of us.



## INA POON BATO

Botolan, Zambales • Feast Day: 3rd Sunday of January

In the remote province of Zambales where the Aetas lived for centuries comes a simple shrine where the Zambaleños flock for years who chose to live among them, and get this, even before the arrival of the Spanish missionaries. This is the wonders of the **Nuestra Señora dela Paz of Zambales**, or more popularly knows as Ina Poon Bato or "Apo Apang" to the Zambaleños.

The venerated image of **Ina Poon Bato** is a wooden de tallado image based from the original statue that was currently kept at the Church of Iglesia Filipina Independiente or the Aglipayan Church. The image was looking at the beholder and presented with a flowing black hair, her hands in a gesture of prayer or offering. She is carved wearing the typical silhouette of Marian Images that are commonly seen in the country. In the case of Apo Apang, she is carved wearing a white dress with a blue cape which mimics the iconic style of the famed Nuestra Señora de la Paz y Buen Viaje of Antipolo Rizal complete with carved designs in her blue cape. The image is standing on a stony base as a reminder on how she was found by an Aeta.



## NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LA LUZ

Loon, Bohol • Feast Day: September 08

**The Nuestra Señora de la Luz Parish Church** (also Our Lady of Light Parish Church), commonly known as Loon Church, was a Roman Catholic Church in the municipality of Loon, Bohol, Philippines, under the Roman Catholic Diocese of Tagbilaran. The parish was established by the Jesuits in 1753. Father Jose Garcia commissioned Domingo de Escondrillas to design the stone church (now in ruins) which was built from 1855 to 1864.

It was declared as a National Historical Landmark by the National Historical Commission of the Philippines and a National Cultural Treasure by the National Museum of the Philippines.

The entire church building and convent were reduced to rubble when a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck Bohol and other parts of Central Visayas in October 15, 2013.

Loon Church was declared a National Cultural Treasure by the National Museum of the Philippines in 2010. The church was also declared as a National Historical Landmark in 2010 by the National Historical Commission of the Philippines.



## LA VIRGEN FESTEJADA SEÑORA DEL SANTÍSSIMO ROSARIO

Baliuag, Bulacan • Feast Day: October 7

Our Lady of Most Holy Rosary Parish Church (Spanish: Iglesia Parroquial de Nuestra Señora del Santísimo Rosario), commonly known as Makinabang Church or Bisitang Pula, is a Roman Catholic Marian church in Barangay Makinabang, Baliuag, Bulacan, Philippines. On October 7, it is one of four Roman Catholic parish churches in the municipality and is the focus of one of its largest processions each year. The other nearby Baliuag parishes which bound the church are: Saint Augustine Church (Población); Holy Family Parish (Tangos); and Our Lady of Mount Carmel (Sabang). The church is also about 2 miles from its neighbor, Sub-Parish Church of Sto. Cristo in barangay Santo Cristo.

The church was built in 1941 with its patron Nuestra Señora del Santísimo Rosario (Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary), a Marian title in relation to the Rosary. Devotion to the Virgin Mary under this title goes back to 1571 when Pope Pius V instituted "Our Lady of Victory" as an annual feast to commemorate the victory in the Battle of Lepanto. The victory was attributed to a rosary procession that day in St. Peter's Square in Rome for the success of the mission of the Holy League to hold back Muslim forces from overrunning Western Europe. In 1573, Pope Gregory XIII changed the title of this feast-day to "Feast of the Holy Rosary". In 1716 Pope Clement XI added the feast to the General Roman Calendar and assigned it to the first Sunday in October. Pope Pius X changed the date to 7 October in 1913, in his effort to restore celebration of the liturgy of the Sundays.



## NUESTRA SEÑORA REINA DE LA PAZ

Bacoar City, Cavite • Feast Day: 3rd Sunday of May

Bishop Felix Perez on January 2, 1982 issued a Degree of Erection creating **Our Lady of Peace Parish**. Fr. Ben Ramirez was installed as its first parish priest. The Church sits on an approximately 7,700.00 sqm area that was donated by QRSI to the Diocese of Imus. Architect Felix Imperial, a restoration expert, made the conceptual 17th century design of the church. In 2001, the parish crypt called Our Lady's Memorial Abode came into existence that will contain 5,000 memorial chambers for bone and ash interments. The main church has a floor area of 1,700.00 sqm with its choir loft of 300 sqm. It has an estimated comfortable sitting capacity of 2,500. Once finished it will be one of the biggest churches in the Philippines and the first church in Cavite to have a parish crypt.



## NUESTRA SEÑORA DEL PILAR

Imus City, Cavite • Feast Day: October 12

**Our Lady of the Pillar of Imus** (Spanish: Nuestra Señora del Pilar de Imus) is a venerated image of the Madonna and Child atop a pillar lovingly venerated in Imus, Philippines. It is enshrined in the Cathedral of Imus. It is known as the Mother, Queen, and the Patroness of Diocese of Imus, Province of Cavite. The image was given a canonical coronation by Pope Benedict XVI in 2011 and the act of coronation was rendered on December 3, 2012 in celebration of the Closing of the Jubilee of the Diocese of Imus that has jurisdiction to the Whole Province of Cavite as decreed by Pope John XXIII (now a saint) in his papal bull *Chisti Fidelis*.

There is no strong evidence that proves the authenticity of the image. The image really portrays "Virgen de Consolacion" but to follow the tradition, our lady is called "del pilar". During the coronation, the image crowned was the replica of our patroness, nana pilar. Nana Pilar is also the first image to dance Caracol dance according to the history, then followed by Nuestra Señora de Santísimo Rosario de Salinas and Sta Maria Magdalena de Cavite el Viejo.

Pope Benedict XVI acknowledged the petition of the miracles claimed by devotees in 2012, authorizing the coronation of the image via a Papal bull. The Canonical Coronation was carried out on 3 December 2012 in Imus Cathedral by Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle in celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the Diocese.



## MILAGROSANG BIRHEN NG SIMALA

Lindogon Sibonga, Cebu • Feast Day: September 08

**The Monastery of the Holy Eucharist**, popularly known as the Simala Shrine or Simala Church is located in Marian Hills, Lindogon, Simala, Sibonga, Cebu. It was built in 1998 by the Marian Monks from Pampanga. It used to be just an ordinary church until after the incidents of miraculous events. One of which is the shedding of tears of the Mother Mary's image. It paved the way for the shrine's popularity with devotees constantly flocking the area.

There are various reasons why people come to visit the Simala Shrine. For Catholic devotees, the main reason why they visit the place is for them to offer their devotion, prayers, and petitions to the Virgin Mary with a hope that each petition and devotion will be answered. Another reason is for healing of physical and spiritual illness. For some, especially for non-catholics, visiting the shrine is for adventure and curiosity purposes only. The amazing structure and architecture of the shrine will really leave someone in awe.





## NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LA PURIFICACION Y CANDELARIA

Jaro, Iloilo City, Iloilo • Feast Day: February 02

**Jaro Cathedral**, formally known as Jaro Metropolitan Cathedral and the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Candles (Spanish: Santuario Nacional de Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria), is the seat of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Jaro. It is located in the district of Jaro in Iloilo City, Iloilo, on the island of Panay in the Philippines. It was placed under the patronage of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines formally declared the cathedral the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Candles (Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria) in February 2012. The Cathedral is the second national shrine in the Visayas and Mindanao, the first being the Basilica del Santo Niño in Cebu. Likewise, it is also the first and only Marian dedicated declared "National Shrine" church or cathedral in Visayas and Mindanao.

The statue of Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria perched atop the façade of the cathedral, is the first Marian image canonically crowned personally by a Pope and Saint (John Paul II) in the Philippines and Asia. Also, through the said canonical crowning, the Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria has been declared as the official Roman Catholic patron of Western Visayas and Romblon.



## NUESTRA SEÑORA VIRGEN DEL SANTÍSIMO ROSARIO, REINA DE CARACOL

Rosario, Cavite • Feast Day: 1st Sunday of October

**Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, Queen of the Caracol**, known locally as Mahal na Birhen ng Santo Rosaryo, Reyna ng Karakol or Nuestra Señora Virgen del Santísimo Rosario, Reina de Caracol, is the patroness of the Municipality of Rosario, formerly known as Salinas, in Cavite province, Philippines.

Historically, there is no exact data or record as to when she became the patroness of Rosario. On April 21, 1984, Tony Nazareno, the president of the Antique Dealers Association of the Philippines came to examine the painting of the Virgin Mary. According to him, the image is a product of a Filipino brush. The face of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary is very Filipina, a rare piece in the Philippine iconography. He believed that the style of the painting belonged to a well-known painter, Faustino Quiotang, and suggested that the icon was painted sometime between 1810 and 1820.



## INA NG LAGING SAKLOLO

Baclaran, Parañaque, Metro Manila • Feast Day: June 27

**The National Shrine of Our Mother of Perpetual Help** (Filipino: Pambansáng Dambana ng Ina ng Laging Saklolo), also known as the Redemptorist Church and colloquially as Baclaran Church, is a prominent national shrine dedicated to Our Lady of Perpetual Help along Roxas Boulevard in Baclaran, Parañaque, a city in the southern part of Metro Manila, the capital of the Philippines.

The church enshrines the icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, and is one of the largest Marian churches in the Philippines. Devotion to Our Mother of Perpetual Help is popular amongst Filipino Catholics, and gave rise to the throngs of devotees who flood the church every Wednesday to attend Mass and pray the Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help. In Manila, Wednesdays are popularly called "Baclaran Day" due to congested roads brought on by pilgrims to the shrine.

The original icon enshrined above the main altar came from Germany, and passed through Ireland and Australia before priests of the Redemptorist Order brought it to what was then the United States territory of the Philippine Islands in 1906. It bears the Papal arms in the back paneling.

Since the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in 1958, the shrine has been authorised by the Holy See to remain open 24 hours a day throughout the entire year. The shrine itself was blessed by Pope John Paul II during his first Apostolic Visit to Metro Manila in 1981. The shrine complex serves as the headquarters of the Manila Vice Province of Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, while the Cebu Province of the Redemptorists is headquartered in Cebu.



## NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LA SOLEDAD DE MANILA

Tondo/Binondo, Manila • Feast Day: January 01

In the hidden yet busy area of Camba, located in between Tondo and Binondo in Manila, there is a little church that has been the refuge of the people, especially the marginalized of Manila for centuries. This hidden church in this side of Manila is dedicated to the its miraculous patroness, the centuries old image of **Nuestra Señora de la Soledad de Manila**.

This centuries old icon of the Virgin of Solitude that is venerated there became the comforter of the afflicted and refuge of the poor for centuries and miracles were reported through her intercession up to the present. The people of Camba have grown to love their patroness that even with their limited resources, they were able to give her the best gifts to their precious and priceless treasure.

# CALENDAR OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY'S FEAST DAYS

(Considering the many titles of our Blessed Virgin Mary)



## JANUARY

### 01 - SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

This is the feast day of the Blessed Virgin Mary under the aspect of her motherhood of Jesus on the 8th day according to the biblical and Jewish laws.

### 23 - ESPOUSAL OF THE VIRGIN MARY

Feast in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary's espousal or marriage to St. Joseph.



## FEBRUARY

### 02 - PURIFICATION OF MARY

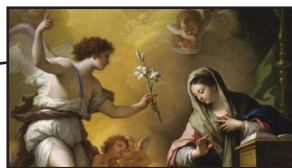
This is the ceremony performed by the mother of God in the temple of Jerusalem 40 days after the birth of Christ in fulfillment of the Mosaic Law requiring the cleansing of a woman from the ritual incurred at childbirth. This is also called the Candlemas Day because this was the day that all the churches' candles for the year are blessed.

### 04 - OUR LADY OF THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT

One of the listed 7 sorrows of Mary. The Holy Family left Bethlehem to Egypt after the angel warned Joseph to leave with Jesus and Mary to escape the command of King Herod to slaughter the children in and out of Bethlehem.

### 11 - OUR LADY OF LOURDES

This is the Roman title of the Blessed Virgin Mary venerated in honor of the Marian apparitions that occurred in the vicinity of Lourdes in France. She is the patroness of illness and healing.



## MARCH

### 25 - SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

Christian celebration of the announcement of the archangel Gabriel to the Blessed Virgin Mary that she would conceive and become the mother of Jesus.



## APRIL

### 25 - OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL

Title given to the Blessed Virgin Mary after a painting said to be

miraculous was found in the 13th century Augustinian Church near Rome, Italy. Devotion to our Lady of Good Counsel grew among saints and popes then spread throughout the world.



## MAY

### 13 - OUR LADY OF FATIMA

This is the title given to our Blessed Virgin Mary in connection with her apparitions to the three shepherd children, Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta, in Fatima, Portugal. The Blessed Mother told the children to pray the rosary daily for the end of World War I.

### 13 - OUR LADY OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

This title is given to the Blessed Virgin Mary to honor her relationship to the Holy Eucharist and to place her before us to be the model in our duties and devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. In her conduct towards the Blessed Sacrament, we learn what ours should be.

### 24 - MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

The title Mary Help of Christians is associated with the defense of Christian Europe, the North of Africa and the Middle East from the non-Christian people during the Middle Ages. Pope Pius V invoked Christians armies and its victory achieved was attributed to the intercession of Mary under this title.

### 24 - THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

This title was officially given by Pope Paul VI. The Church has traditionally portrayed the Blessed Virgin Mary together with the apostles and disciples gathered at the first Pentecost. She is invoked as mother of the Church and the teacher and queen of the apostles. The title reflects the deep conviction of the Christian faithful's who see in Mary not only as the mother of Christ but also of the faithful's.

### 31 - MARY MEDIATRIX OF ALL GRACES

Mary's title of Mediatrix arises from her cooperation in the incarnation and in the redemption of mankind. The title Mediatrix of all Graces was given by the Roman Catholic Church to the Blessed Virgin Mary as the Mother of God with the understanding that she mediates the Divine grace.

### 31 - FEAST OF THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Visitation is the visit of Mary who was pregnant with Jesus to Elizabeth who was pregnant with John the Baptist. What is most significant is the meeting of their unborn children.





## JUNE

### 9 - MARY, VIRGIN MOTHER OF GRACE

This title refers to her own holiness. Mary was invoked as a uniquely blessed one and as the mother of mercy. She is also the one who intercedes for us with God to obtain His grace.

### 12 - IMMACULATE HEART OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

This is a devotional name used to refer to the interior life of the Blessed Virgin Mary, her joys and sorrows, her virtues and hidden perfections and above all her virginal love for God the Father, her maternal love for her son, Jesus Christ, and her motherly and compassionate love for all mankind.

### 27 - OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

This is a Roman Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary as represented in a celebrated 15th century Byzantine icon also associated with the same Marian apparitions. In June 1867 Pope Pius IX granted the image its canonical coronation along with its title.



## JULY

### 2 - VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

(This may also be celebrated on May 31 as previously indicated)

### 16 - OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

This is the title given to our Blessed Virgin Mary as patroness of the Carmelites order. The first Carmelites were Christian hermits living on Mount Carmel in the Holy Land. They built their chapel dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary whom they conceived as the Lady of the Place. On the 15th century devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary was centered on the scapular of our Lady of Mount Carmel also known as the brown scapular.

### 17 - HUMILITY OF THE BLESSED MARY

Also known as Our Lady of Humility. It was revealed that the first virtue in which the Blessed Virgin Mary particularly exercised from her very childhood was that of humility. God so loves humility and the Son-of God Himself comes on earth to teach it by His own example. Mary, being first and most perfect disciple of Jesus Christ in the practice of humility and all other virtues and by it merited to be exalted above all creatures.



## AUGUST

### 2 - OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS

This is an important feast day for all Franciscans and is celebrated in Franciscan churches throughout the world. On its feast day it recalls the small Assisi area chapel that became the foundational

home of the Franciscan family, The Portiuncula. The formal name of the chapel is Our Lady Queen of Angels

### 5 - OUR LADY OF THE SNOW

This title comes from the legend that involved the Basilica of Saint Mary Major which is located in Rome and one of the oldest devotions to Mary. Mary came to a Roman couple in a dream telling them that she wanted a church built in her honor and the site where the church should be built shall be covered by snow as a sign. Then on a hot morning of August 5, 352 A.D, snow had fallen on Mount Esquiline. The summer snow was considered a miracle and 6 years later the church to honor Mary was built on that very hill.

### 13 - OUR LADY, REFUGE OF SINNERS

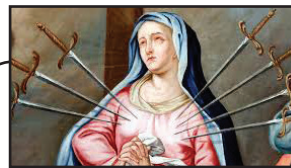
No one could have yearned for the return of sinners as much as Jesus yearns. We know that Mary has great power with Jesus and that She loves us because God loves us. She is our refuge, our advocate because God wants us to come to Him through Her. It is in this sense that our Lady is the "Refuge of Sinners", wanting to save us pleading with Jesus to save us, even only to come to our help, ever ready to cover with her mantle of love.

### 15 - ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The assumption of Mary is the bodily taking up of Mary into heaven at the end of her earthly life. The Catholic Church teaches as dogma that the Virgin Mary, having completed the course of earthly life, has assumed body and soul into heavenly glory. Pope Pius XII referred to the Book of Genesis (3:15) as scriptural support for the dogma in terms of Mary's victory over sin and death through her intimate association with Christ.

### 22 - QUEENSHIP OF MARY

Pope Pius XII states that Mary is called Queen of Heaven because her son Jesus Christ is the King of Israel and the Heavenly King of the universe, thus recognized the Mother of the King as the Queen Mother. The title Queen of Heaven has long been a catholic tradition, included as prayers and devotional literature. The purpose of this feast is that all may recognize more clearly and venerate more devoutly the merciful and motherly sovereignty of Mary who bore God in her womb.



## SEPTEMBER

### 8 - NATIVITY OF MARY

This refers to a Christian feast day celebrating the birth of Mary, mother of Jesus Christ. The fixed date of Sept. 8 is nine months after the December 8 celebration of her immaculate conception as the child of St. Anne and St. Joachim

### 8 - OUR LADY OF CHARITY

This is a popular Marian title of the Blessed Virgin Mary known in many Catholic countries. The history of our Lady of Charity began in 1612 with the story that the image of Mama Mary was found one stormy weather in the middle of the ocean. The statue of the Blessed Mother was holding the Child Jesus on her left arm and a Cross on her right hand. On the board where the statue was fastened was an inscription saying "Yo soy la Virgen Dela Caridad"



or "I am the Virgin of Charity". The statue remained completely dry while afloat in the water.

### 12 - MOST HOLY NAME OF MARY

The Roman Martyrology about this feast speaks of it as "The Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a day on which the inexpressible love of the Mother of God for her Holy Child is recalled and the eyes of the faithful are directed to the figure of the Mother of the Redeemer, for them to invoke with devotion.

### 13 - FEAST OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS

This title was given to our Blessed Mother focusing on the death of our Lord. It also reminds us of the seven sorrows of Mary. Interestingly this feast was placed in the Roman missal under the title of Our Lady of Compassion.



## OCTOBER

### 7 - OUR LADY OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY

Formerly known as Our Lady of Victory. According to the Dominican tradition, in 1206, St Dominic was in France attempting to convert the Albigensian to the catholic faith with little hope until one day he received a vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary who gave him a rosary as a tool against heretics. Pope Gregory XIII changed the name of the feast to the Feast of the Holy Rosary.

### 11 - MATERNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

This feast is commemorating the dignity of Mary as Mother of God. Mary is truly the Mother of God because she is the mother of Christ, who is one Person who unites the human and divine nature. This title was solemnly ratified by the Counsel of Ephesus.

### 12 - OUR LADY OF THE PILLAR

This is the name given to the Blessed Virgin Mary in the context of the traditional belief that Mary while living in Jerusalem supernaturally appeared to the apostle James while preaching. This is the only recorded apparition of Mary exhibiting the mystical phenomenon of bilocation. This is also considered as the first Marian apparition being unique due to having occurred while Mary was still living on earth.

### 16 - PURITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Mary, Mother of God, is the Virgin most pure because she is the immaculate conception, she is full of grace, she is the holiest of all God's creatures, she is the mother of God.

The ever-Virgin Mary remains pure in charity, chastity in love of truth and orthodoxy of faith. That purity is "divine" because that is inspired by God, imitate this purity and leads to Him.



## NOVEMBER

### 11 - PATRONAGE OF OUR LADY

The Blessed Virgin Mary maybe taken as patroness of any good activity; she is cited as the Patroness of all humanity. The purpose of the Virgin Mary is listed by occupations, activities, dioceses and other geographic locations. Mary is the Patroness of all.

### 21 - PRESENTATION OF MARY AT THE TEMPLE

The feast of the Presentation of Mary was based on the ancient tradition when Mary was taken to the temple of Jerusalem and dedicated to God when she was 3 years old. What we celebrate on this day is the fact that God chose to dwell in Mary in a special way, in return, Mary placed her whole self at the service of God. Every moment since your baptism God invites you to be open to His grace and dedicate yourself to Him, as Mary did.



## DECEMBER

### 2 - OUR LADY, CAUSE OF OUR JOY

The birth of Blessed Virgin, Mother of God announced joy to the whole world. Because Jesus came through Mary, Jesus is the joy of the whole world, of every soul that was created and the joy came through Mary. Mary is the Cause of Our Joy through her share in our redemption and through her position in the kingdom of Our Lord.

### 8 - IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

This is a Dogma of the Catholic Church which states that Mary, Mother of Jesus has been free of original sin from the moment of her conception. Mary's immaculate conception is the reason why Catholics refer to Mary as "Full of Grace".

### 12 - OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Also known as the Virgin of Guadalupe is a Catholic title of Blessed Virgin Mary associated with a series of 5 Marian Apparitions in December 1531 and a venerated image on a cloak enshrined within the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. Pope Leo XIII granted the image a decree of a canonical coronation on 8 February 1887 and it was ceremoniously crowned on 12 October 1895.

### 18 - EXPECTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

One of the most inspiring days preceding Christmas is the feast of "Our Lady of Expectation". The feast heightens the anticipation of Christmas and makes the last few days of an Advent unique opportunities to meditate on what Mary must have been pondering in her heart. Unknown to many but is still celebrated in many countries.

**NOTE:** 1. Of the 49 listed Feast days of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 10 are excluded for the reasons such as removal from the Roman Liturgical calendar, and only on Anglican and Orthodox Churches. Other Feast days are limited to specific places. The 39 Feast days listed above are the universally known and celebrated by the Roman Catholic Church.

2. We are now searching for other additional Feast days limited to the Philippines not included above but being celebrated in our country.

# MARY IN THE BIBLE

## Bible Passages for Monthly Reading

New Testament passages showing how Mary's life with Christ unfolded.



### Luke 1:26-38

**The Annunciation of the Angel Gabriel to Mary, who told her that she was to be the Mother of God. Mary's yes to God led to the Incarnation of Jesus in her womb.**

#### The Birth of Jesus Foretold

26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, 27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." 29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." 34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" 35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. 36 Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. 37 For no word from God will ever fail." 38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

#### PRAYER OF THANKS

Father, we thank You from our innermost being that You sent Your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ to be born into a fallen race so that by His perfect life and sacrificial death He might be lifted up on the wooden cross, in the same way that Moses lifted up the bronze serpent in the wilderness, so that all who looked would live.

Thank You, Father, for the wonderful plan of salvation that You in Your grace purposed would be the only way that mankind could be saved from His sin, and so You sent Your one and only begotten Son, to be born of a virgin into the human race, God becoming Man, so that man might be eternally clothed in the righteous garments of God.

Thank You that by His human life and physical death, He was able to reconcile us back to God, forgive us of our sins and break the power of death in the lives of all Who believe in His name.

Thank You that from His unpretentious beginning, where he had nowhere to lay His head, to His lifelong submission of the Father, He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Thank You, Father, for the birth of My Redeemer and I rejoice in the God of my Saviour. In Jesus' name, Amen.



### Luke 1:39-45

**This passage deals with the Visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth who was carrying St. John the Baptist, and was the occasion of her hymn of praise, the Magnificat.**

#### Mary Visits Elizabeth

39 At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, 40 where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! 43 But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

#### PRAYER / REFLECTION:

O God, you sent the Blessed Virgin Mary to visit her cousin Elizabeth and to share with her the joy of your Son's coming. Give us the desire to do your will, that we may glorify you with her for all eternity, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty and ever-living God, who while the Blessed Virgin Mary was carrying your Son in her womb, inspired her to visit Elizabeth, grant us, we pray, that, faithful to the promptings of the Spirit, we may magnify your greatness with the Virgin Mary at all times. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



### Matthew 1:18-24

**The Birth of Our Lord to Our Lady. St. Matthew's account focuses on how an Angel of the Lord appeared to St. Joseph in a dream to reassure him that Mary had remained faithful and that she had conceived her child by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

#### Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son

18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about[a]: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet[b] did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. 20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

#### Prayer to St. Joseph

We turn in our trouble to thee, Blessed Joseph, and after praying for aid from thy holy Spouse, we seek with confidence thy patronage also. By the affection that united thee to the Virgin Immaculate Mother of God; by the fatherly love wherewith thou didst surround the Infant Jesus; we beseech thee to help us to the possession of the heritage that Jesus Christ conquered for us by His Blood, and to aid us by thy power and succor in our need.

Foster, O thou most wise guardian of the Holy Family, the elect people of Jesus Christ. Keep us, O thou most loving father, from every spot of error and corruption. Be favorable and help us from the heights of heaven, O thou our most mighty deliverer, in the fight we must wage against the powers of darkness. And even as thou didst once snatch the Child Jesus from the danger of death, so now defend the Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity. Grant us thy perpetual protection, so that, sustained by thy example and thy help, we may live in holiness, and die in piety, and reach the everlasting blessedness of heaven. Amen.



### Luke 2:1-14

**The Birth of Our Lord to Our Lady; after Mary and Joseph had gone to Bethlehem for Caesar Augustus's census, Jesus was born there in humility and poverty, because there was no place for them at the inn.**

#### The Birth of Jesus

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to their own town to register. 4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and



was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." 13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

#### Prayer:

Loving Father, help us remember the **birth of Jesus**, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.



#### Luke 2:15-20

**The Shepherds go to see the Holy Family; after they had been told of Christ's birth by a vision of angels, the shepherds visited the Holy Family in their shelter at Bethlehem.**

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

#### Prayer:

JESUS, Son of God and Son of Mary, bless our family. Graciously inspire in us the unity, peace, and mutual love that you found in your own family in the little town of Nazareth.

MARY, Mother of Jesus and Our Mother, nourish our family with your faith and your love. Keep us close to your Son, Jesus, in all our sorrows and joys.

JOSEPH, Foster-father to Jesus, guardian and spouse of Mary, keep our family safe from harm. Help us in all times of discouragement or anxiety. HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. May we always have God at the center of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with you. Amen.



#### Luke 2:22-40

**The Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple forty days after his birth by Mary and Joseph. When the aged Simeon saw the Child, he foretold that a sword of sorrow would pierce the Blessed Virgin's heart at the time of the crucifixion.**

#### Jesus Presented in the Temple

22 When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"[a]), 24 and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: 29 "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss[c] your servant in peace. 30 For my eyes have seen your salvation, 31 which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel." 33 The child's father and

mother marveled at what was said about him. 34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, 35 so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

36 There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, 37 and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. 38 Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

39 When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. 40 And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

#### PRAYER:

Almighty ever-living God,

We humbly implore your majesty that, just as your Only Begotten Son was presented on this day in the Temple in the substance of our flesh, so, by your grace, we may be presented to you with minds made pure.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,



#### Matthew 2:1-12

**The Visit of the Wise Men to see the Child Jesus. After King Herod had tried to deceive the Magi they visited the Holy Family at Bethlehem, but returned by a different way to their own country. This is the Epiphany, or manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles.**

#### The Magi Visit the Messiah

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi[a] from the east came to Jerusalem 2 and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." 3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: 6 "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." 9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

#### PRAYER:

O Holy Magi, you were living in continual expectation of the rising of the Star of Jacob, which would announce the birth of the true Son of justice; obtain for me an increase of faith and charity, and the grace to live in continual hope of beholding, one day, the light of heavenly glory and eternal joy. (Share your request ...)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

**Prayer to the Infant Jesus:** Infant Jesus, meek and mild, look on me a little child. Pity mine and pity me, suffer me to come to Thee. Heart of Jesus, I adore Thee. Heart of Mary, I implore Thee. Heart of Joseph, pure and just. In these three hearts, I put my trust. Help us Joseph in our early strife, ever to lead a pure and blameless life. O, Holy Magi, Pray for Us.



#### Luke 2:41-51

**The finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple by Mary and Joseph. After he had been missing for three days, his parents found him, but did not understand when he told them that he had been about his Father's affairs. Mary and Joseph's action**

***represents the human heart searching for God and the finding of Him in the temple shows us that we as temples of the Holy Spirit are the Father's house. Or at least we should be.***

### **The Boy Jesus at the Temple**

41 Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. 42 When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. 43 After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. 44 Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. 45 When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. 46 After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48 When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you." 49 "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" [a] 50 But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

51 Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart.

#### **PRAYER:**

Dear Lord, God almighty, let me remember with great joy the times I have found **Jesus** after I had gone seeking Him.



### ***John 2:1-11***

***The Wedding Feast at Cana saw the public manifestation of Jesus as the Messiah, as he turned the water into wine for the guests at the behest of his mother, Mary, thus anticipating his "hour" when his mission as the Redeemer of all mankind would begin.***

### **The Wedding at Cana**

1 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. 3 When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." 4 [And] Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." 5 His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you." 6 Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. 7 Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the brim. 8 Then he told them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it. 9 And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from (although the servers who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom 10 and said to him, "Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now." 11 Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him.

#### **PRAYER:**

Loving Lord Jesus, may I bring happiness and joy wherever I go in my life, spreading love and generosity, even when others around me do not.



### ***John 19:25-27***

***This passage describes Mary at the foot of the Cross of her Son, Jesus. He gave John to her as her son, and confided John to Mary as his mother, an indication of how all Christians, who are brothers of Christ, are also Mary's spiritual children.***

25 Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," 27 and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

#### **PRAYER:**

I will go to the altar of God. To God who gives joy to my youth. Judge me, O God, and take up my cause against the nation that is not holy. Free me from the unjust and deceitful man. For You, O God, are my strength, why have You cast me off? And why do I walk in sorrow, while the enemy troubles me?

Send forth Your light and Your truth, they have led me, and brought me to Your holy hill, and to Your dwelling. I will go to the altar of God, to God who gives joy to my youth. To You, O God, my God, I will give praise upon the harp, why are you sad, O my soul? And why do you trouble me? Hope in God, for I will still praise Him, the salvation of my countenance and my God.



### ***Acts of the Apostles 1:12-14; 2:1-4***

***Mary, as the Spouse of the Holy Spirit, was at the descent of the same Holy Spirit at Pentecost, when the disciples were filled with his power and were able to boldly proclaim the faith.***

12 Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. 13 When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. 14 They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

### **The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost**

2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

#### **PRAYER:**

Again, our hearts were tasked with faith—a promise made by Jesus. Another gift was soon to come, right after he would leave us. The Holy Spirit would visit soon. The disciples lit by fire. Behold the birthday of our Church—these events that did inspire. And from this day, the path was set of many tongues, so all could get the Word of God, for all to hear to spread our faith, both far and near.



### ***Revelation 11:19; 12:1-6; 10***

***Mary is the Woman of the Apocalypse, the new ark of the covenant, now assumed into heaven the Woman clothed with the sun, who also has the moon under her feet, symbols of her power as Mother and intercessor for all mankind.***

19 Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a severe hailstorm.

### **The Woman and the Dragon**

12 A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. 2 She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. 3 Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads. 4 Its tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he was born. 5 She gave birth to a son, a male child, who "will rule all the nations with an iron scepter." And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. 6 The woman fled into the wilderness to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.

10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:

"Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.

#### **PRAYER:**

Father in heaven, all creation rightly gives you praise, for all life and all holiness come from you. In the plan of your wisdom she who bore the Christ in her womb was raised body and soul in glory to be with him in heaven. May we follow her example in reflecting your holiness and join in her hymn of endless love and praise. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.