

St. Joseph's Messenger

*A BULLETIN FOR INSPIRING
SCHOOL FAMILIES*

*"GROUNDED IN THE TRADITION OF THE
CATHOLIC CHURCH, ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL
IS A COMMUNITY DEDICATED TO FORMING
DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST THROUGH
FAITH, ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, AND
SERVICE TO OTHERS."*



As May is the month we dedicate to Mary who is the Mother of God, and in turn our mother too, I'd like to dedicate this bulletin article by looking at a passage in the Gospel of John which says a lot more about Mary than we realize at first glance.

The passage is the Wedding Feast at Cana (John 2:1-5). The verses I am referencing involve the interaction with Jesus and Mary. Jesus refers to Mary as "Woman." Particularly in the context of the Wedding at Cana when Mary asks Jesus to do something and he replies by calling her Woman seems to be disrespectful.

However at closer look we see what Jesus is telling us about Mary. He is referring to her as Woman to point to her being the new Eve, just as Our Lord is the new Adam. Before the name of Eve was given her, the original woman was referred to simply as woman. Just as an angel appeared to the original woman (remembering Satan was a fallen angel) and presented her with a question which would involve her saying yes or no to God by eating from the fruit of the tree which God had forbidden, so too with the new Eve (Mary) an angel appeared to her (Gabriel) and presented her with a question of whether she would say yes or no to God to conceive His Son in her

Notes from Fr. Seth

womb. Unlike the first Eve who said no to God, the new Eve said yes!

So how does this connect to the Wedding Feast at Cana? Just as the first Eve prompted Adam to commit the first sin thus placing humanity in a fallen state, so now the new Eve prompted the new Adam to perform His first miracle which would begin His ministry on the path to placing humanity in a redeemed state! God never gave up on humanity after the Fall of Adam and Eve. In fact he prepared us through all Patriarchs, Judges, Kings, and Prophets of the Old Testament to be ready to set the stage for a new creation in Christ. We were meant to live in harmony from the beginning with God, but Adam and Eve were disobedient, first Eve, then Adam. Therefore God creates the new Eve (Mary) and creates her the same way he did as Eve with no original sin and offers her the opportunity to say yes to Him. She does and then prompts the new Adam to be obedient as well to the will of the Father. Obedience counteracts disobedience, first the new Eve, then the new Adam.

This ought to give some perspective as to why we hold Mary in such esteem. We do so because in God's plan, He chose her to begin His work of redemption. It's only by God's grace, but He chose Mary, and she said yes! Just as Mary prompted Jesus to begin his ministry by telling the servants at the wedding to "do whatever He tells you," so too in fostering our

relationship with Mary – by praying the Rosary or practicing other Marian devotions – we will begin to have greater confidence in Our Lord

Jesus to do what He tells us. God Bless. – Fr. Seth

Feast Days in May

- 1 - St. Joseph the Worker
- 13 - Our Lady of Fatima
- 14 - St. Matthias
- 24 - Ascension of the Lord
- 31 - Pentecost Sunday

Ways to Celebrate the “Month of Mary” at home Plant a Mary Garden

A beautiful way to honor Mary at home is to plant a Mary Garden. This tradition was started in the seventh century by **St. Fiacre**, the patron saint of gardening. Many amazing ideas can be found on Pinterest. A good way to start is to find the perfect place for your Mary Garden. It can be as simple or as grand as you wish. A statue or image of the Blessed Mother should be the center of your garden. Flowers can be planted according to soil and lighting conditions. Here are a few flowers that can give special meaning in your Mary Garden:

Roses - the “**queen of flowers**” have long been associated with Mary
Rosemary - the name says it all!
Marigold - “**Mary’s Gold**”
Lily of the Valley - these flowers are also known as “**Our Lady’s Tears**”
Impatiens - also called “**Mother’s Love**” because of their constant bloom
Bleeding Hearts - to symbolize Mary’s pierced heart
Hyacinth - the blooms resemble a star shape
Petunias - “**Mary’s Praise**”

Go on a Virtual Marian Pilgrimage

This month we celebrate Our Lady of Fatima on May 13. We remember her appearance to three shepherd children named Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta at the Cova da Iria in Fatima, Portugal between May 13 and October 13, 1917. Identifying herself as Our Lady of the Rosary, Mary stressed the importance of repentance, conversion of heart and dedication to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, especially through daily recitation of the Rosary. She encouraged the children to pray the Rosary often.

Check out this link for a virtual Pilgrimage to Fatima:

[Online Pilgrimage to Fatima](#)

Formed <https://watch.formed.org/the-saints-and-heroes-collection> also has a great kids movie *The Day Sun Danced: The True Story of Fatima* if you would like to learn even more.

May Crowning

The most traditional way to celebrate the “Queen of May” is to have an annual May Crowning. Kendra Tierney explains how to do this at home in her book *The Catholic All Year Compendium: Liturgical Living For Real Life*.

- 1. Get a statue of Mary**

- 2. Make a crown for the statue**

Use floral wire and any beautiful flowers that you wish

- 3. Encourage kids to wear their Sunday Best**

- 4. Choose your May Queen**

This could be the oldest girl or a girl who has just received her First Communion

- 5. Get some extra blooms to place at the feet of Mary**

Set an extra vase at Mary’s feet to hold the extra flowers

- 6. Choose the music**

Sing a Marian hymn such as “Immaculate Mary” or “Hail, Holy Queen” during the crowning.

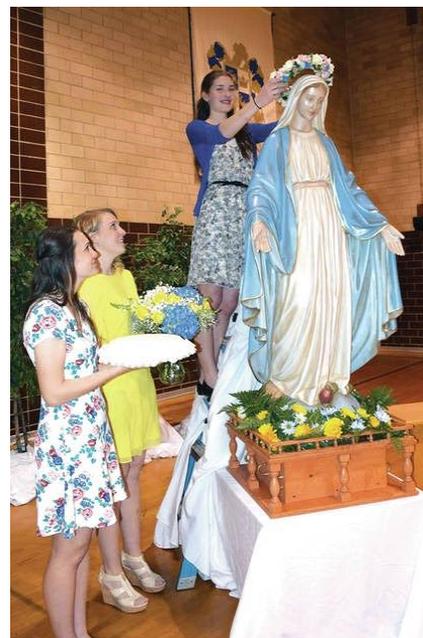
- 7. Celebrate!**

As you are singing your selected hymn, have a simple procession led by the May Queen. As the group begins to sing, all will follow behind the May Queen and place their flowers in the vase at Mary’s feet. Celebrate after with refreshments or treats.

Check out these other resources!

<https://www.catholicicing.com/how-to-pl-an-a-may-crowning-for-kids/>

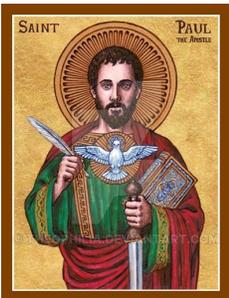
Click for link to a
[Mary Crowning Video](#)



Virtues in Practice - Saints for May

Each month, ALL St. Joseph's School students will learn about the "virtue of the month" and about saints that exemplify this particular virtue. The virtue will be the same for all classes; the saints differ from grade to grade.

May Virtue: **ZEAL** Zeal is loving God so much that it gives you energy! The saints for this month were like action superheroes for God.

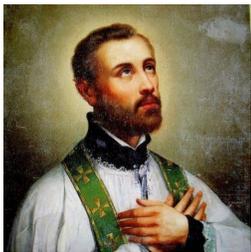


SAINT PAUL (3-65 AD, Turkey) When St. Paul came to believe in Jesus, his love of Christ so filled him that he traveled to many places to spread the good news of the Gospel-JESUS LOVES US! Many of his letters (called Epistles), are in the Bible. His feast days are January 25 and June 29.

SAINT DOMINIC DE GUZMAN (1170-1221, Spain) St. Dominic was so energetic about spreading the faith that he is sometimes called the "athlete of Christ"! He started the Dominican Order to teach everyone about God's good news of salvation. The order still is active in preaching and contemplative in prayer & meditation.



Learning & charity are charisms as well for this order. His feast day is Aug 8.



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER (1506-1552, Spain) St. Francis Xavier was one of the greatest missionaries the Church has ever known, a man on fire with the love of God. He led an adventurous life throughout India and the Far East. He once baptized 10,000 people in one month! During the 20 years that he was a priest, he traveled thousands of miles barefoot. He was known to calm storms, prophesy, and heal people. His feast day is Dec. 3.

FAITH is believing in God and all He has revealed.

A **VIRTUE** is a good habit that leads us toward God.

References:

Tierney, Kendra. (2018). *The Catholic All Year Compendium: Liturgical Living for Real Life*. Ignatius Press.