
August 19, 2021

Be It Done Unto Me

Week 20 of Ordinary Time, Cycle B



**"Jesus replied, 'Rather, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it.'"
"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you."**

New Eve...

From an ancient homily by St. John Chrysostom, Church Father...

"Christ conquered the devil using the same means and the same weapons that the devil used to win. Let me tell you how this occurred.

The symbols of our fall were a virgin, a tree and death. The virgin was Eve (for she had not yet known man); then there was the tree;

and death was Adam's penalty. And again these three tokens of our destruction, the virgin, the tree and death, became the tokens of our victory.

Instead of Eve there was Mary; instead of the tree of knowledge of good & evil, the wood of the cross; instead of Adam's death, the death of Christ. Do you see then that the devil was defeated by the very means he used to conquer?"



Homework & Reflection

Homework

Read chapter 12 of the USCCA

Read the readings from August 15, the *Vigil* of the Assumption.

Read Chapters 1 & 2 of Luke's Gospel - then choose your favorite image of Mary from these passages. Be ready to share your favorite at the next RCIA Session.

If you want, pray the Magnificat - Mary's canticle of praise in Luke 1:46-55 - every evening this week. This prayer of Mary's is part of Church's daily Evening Prayer.

Sharing

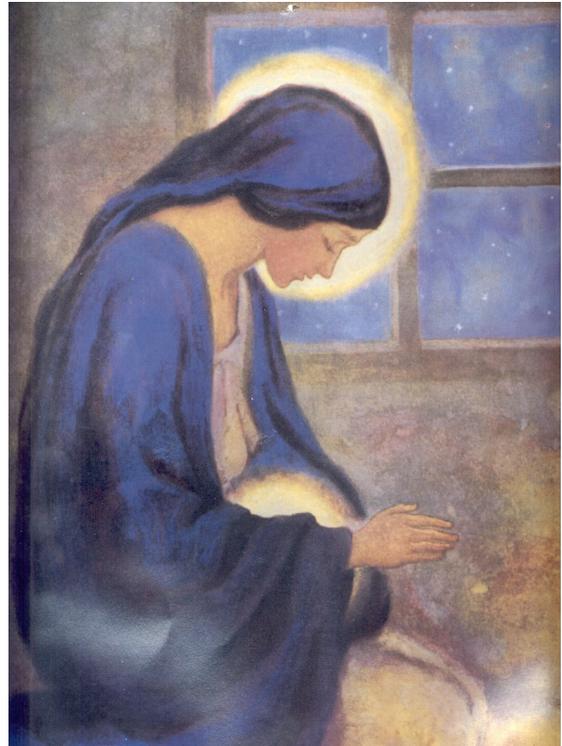
What misconceptions do others have about our Catholic devotion to Mary? Do we pray to Mary?

What do you know about Mary? What do you like about Mary? What troubles you about Mary?

Mary is almost completely "silent" in Scripture - what do we "hear" from Mary in Scripture? What might we learn from her silence and her words and actions?

Sometimes Mary is an "archetype" or a "figure" - a model. But she is also to a real and living person. What must Mary's life with God been like, when she was a girl? A woman? A mom? Why is she important to us? How is she our Mother - and Mother of the Church?

If Mary is a "queen" - what do we begin to understand about our own way of relating to others?



Ark of the New Covenant

The Old Testament tells us that one item was placed inside the Ark of the Old Covenant while in the Sinai wilderness: God told Moses to put the stone tablets with the Ten Commandments inside the ark (Dt 10:3-5). Hebrews 9:4 informs us that two additional items were placed in the Ark: "a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's rod that budded." Notice the amazing parallels: In the ark was the law of God inscribed in stone; in Mary's womb was the Word of God in flesh. In the ark was the urn of manna, the bread from heaven that kept God's people alive in the wilderness; in Mary's womb is the Bread of Life come down from heaven that brings eternal life. In the ark was the rod of Aaron, the proof of true priesthood; in Mary's womb is the true priest. In the third century, St. Gregory the Wonder Worker said that Mary is truly an ark—"gold within and gold without, and she has received in her womb all the treasures of the sanctuary." See more at this link: <https://www.catholic.com/magazine/print-edition/mary-the-ark-of-the-new-covenant>
