



### The Seven Sorrows of Mary

1. The joy of taking their son to the Temple for him to be presented to the Lord by the priests was tinged by the prophesy of a man they encountered on the way in. Simeon foretold that a sword would pierce Mary's heart, too.
2. Not long after, they were forced to flee – for the current king was going to try to kill the future king. A baby under a very real death threat is a particular pain for the parents. Having to leave everything behind to protect him, and go to a foreign country yet another sorrow.
3. Just another trip to the Temple for a pilgrimage for a high holy day, except Jesus stays behind and his parents don't know. The agony of wondering if he is okay, and if they will be able to find him in the big city.

The difficulty of beginning the search.

4. As Jesus makes his way to Calvary, beaten, bloodied, and struggling under the weight of the Cross, he meets his mother. Parents would often do anything to save their children. But she can't. Not because it is too much, but because then she would be stopping him from the work of salvation. It is his cross to carry. To see her son suffer, and to choose to do nothing, is no easy thing.
5. As Jesus hangs on the Cross, his mother stands below. Such agony for the son, such agony for the mother.
6. As Jesus is taken down from the Cross, his dead body is placed in the arms of his mother. It is every parent's worst nightmare, and it is one Mary has known is coming ever since Jesus was a babe.
7. So often tempted to hold onto those we love, Mary lays Jesus in the tomb.

What are the sorrows in your own life? May Mary help us hold fast in faith, to the love of God, and the hope and promise of paradise to come.

On September 15<sup>th</sup> we celebrate the mother who shared in the sufferings of her son, the patronal feast day of Our Lady of Sorrows in Snoqualmie. On Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, we will have our International Festival at the parish at 2:00 p.m. to celebrate.

In Christ,

Fr. Matthew Oakland