

LITURGY BYTES

Mary's Month



Traditionally, the month of May has always been known as Mary's month. As the Mother of God, the Virgin Mary has a unique position among the saints, actually among all creatures. She is exalted, yet still one of us.

Mary embraces God's will and freely chooses to cooperate with God's grace. Throughout the centuries, the Church has turned to Mary in order to come closer to Christ. Many forms of piety toward the Mother of God developed that help bring us closer to her Son. The Church honors her as the Mother of God, looks to her as a model of perfect discipleship, and asks for her prayers to God on our behalf.

The second Vatican Council clearly explained her role. What Mary does for the salvation of the human family does not come from her own power, but from a gift of divine grace that is bestowed on her through her Son. Mary, in no way, replaces Christ. Rather, her role is to bring us to Christ. We see this illustrated in Mary's words at the wedding feast of Cana when she told the waiters: "Do whatever he tells you." (John 2:5)

As we sing of Mary this May, let us embrace her grace, courage and "yes" in accepting God's invitation to be the Mother of Jesus. Throughout the liturgical seasons, we honor Mary at different times such as: January 1st – Mary, Mother of God; March – Annunciation; Saturday after Corpus Christi Sunday – Immaculate Heart of Mary; May 31st – Visitation when Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth; August 15th – Assumption of Mary into heaven; August 22nd – Queenship of Mary; September 8th – Mary's birthday; September 15th – Sorrows of Mary; October 7th – Our Lady of the Rosary; November 21st – Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary; December 8th – Immaculate Conception of Mary; December 12th – feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The Church honors and celebrates Mary, as a woman of great faith all year long, not just during the month of May. All of the above feasts remind us that Mary put God first in her life and lived with much love her entire life.

Happy May, be blessed, be safe and healthy! ~~ *Michele Hall*