

**THE
CATHEDRAL
OF THE
RISEN
CHRIST**

Cathedral Bible Study

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Thursday, May 12th, 2011

**** PLEASE SIGN IN ****

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Lady of Fatima

- Apparitions to three shepherd children at Fatima in Portugal on the 13th day of six consecutive months in 1917, starting on May 13.
- Our Lady of the Rosary
- Miracle of the Sun (70,000)
- Lúcia & First Saturday Devotions
- *“O my Jesus, pardon us, save us from the fires of hell. Lead all souls to heaven, especially those in most need.”*



BIBLE STUDY OBJECTIVES

- May → Month of Mary
- Marian: Holy Days of Obligation & Dogma's
- Learning to know Christ thru the *"School of Mary"*
- Have fun!



Marian Dogma's

1. **Divine Motherhood (Council of Ephesus, 431)**
2. **Perpetual Virginity (Council of Latern, 649)**
3. **Immaculate Conception (December 8, 1854)**
4. **Assumption (November 1, 1950)**

Debated, Proposed, Discussed (5th Dogma?)

Mary as Spiritual Mother of all Humanity

(Co-Redemptrix, Mediatrix of all Graces, & Advocate)

REDEMPTION

How to describe Christ in the Marian dogmas?

REMEMBER: What is said of Mary is said of the Church!

The more that we understand the Marian Dogmas ...
the more we understand the role of the Church in
the Mission of Redemption ... why the Church is
necessary for salvation.

We must participate in the Marian dogmas in the way
that we were created to participate in them!

Marian dogmas help us to *know* Christ (not theological
facts & figures knowledge) but relationally!

PLANNED SCHEDULE

- May 5th → Divine Motherhood
- May 12th → Immaculate Conception /
Perpetual Virginity
- May 19th → Assumption
- May 26th → Apparitions
- June 2nd → HOLY DAY: Solemnity of the
Ascension of the Lord

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

- On 6 December 1708 Pope Clement XI decreed that the feast of the Immaculate Conception be a Holy Day of Obligation throughout the entire Catholic Church
- Defined as a dogma by Pope Pius IX in his constitution *Ineffabilis Deus* on 8 DEC 1854.
- Patroness of the United States



The *Immaculate Conception* by Murillo, 1660, Museo del Prado, Spain.

FULL OF GRACE

- “The conception of Mary is to be venerated as something extraordinary, wonderful, eminently holy, and different from the conception of all other human beings”
- Luke 1:28 → κεχαριτωμένη (Kecharitomene) Favored one; Full of Grace; one Highly Favored
- The Greek perfect tense denotes the present state resultant upon a past action



GRACE: Protestant vs. Catholic

PROTESTANT:

- Total depravity of Man
- Christ does all the work; no response is possible
- Grace covers over
- “I said before that our righteousness is dung in the sight of God. Now if God chooses to adorn dung, he can do so” (*Luther's Works*, Vol. 34, page 184).

CATHOLIC:

- Creation made for relationship with God (*to participate in His Divine Life*)
- Sin damages relationship
- Christ dies on the Cross, not so that I don't have to, but so that I can!
- Grace transforms & truly changes

PARTICIPATION IN THE DIVINE LIFE

- What does it mean to be Christ like?
- What does it mean to Participate in the Mission of Christ?
- What is the Mission of Christ?
- How do we participate in the Divine Life of God?
- To get the word out? To spread the Good News?
- Get People to Pray More?
- Lead more a moral life?
- Be nice!

REGENERATION / RECREATION

- Radical regeneration ... we have to die, so that Christ can regenerate or recreate us through His Grace
- Photosynthesis → harmful is transformed into life giving!
- Transformed through Grace
- To be regenerated ... to be reborn, we need a Mother ...
- Supernatural rebirth
- Rebirth requires fertility
- Supernatural fertility
- Fertility, fruitfulness, pregnant, virility, generative, life bearing

EVER VIRGIN

PERPETUAL VIRGINITY (Council of Lateran, 649)

- “If anyone does not in accord with the Holy Fathers acknowledge the holy and ever virgin and immaculate Mary as really and truly the Mother of God, inasmuch as she, in the fullness of time, and without seed, conceived by the Holy Spirit, God the Word Himself, who before all time was born of God the Father, and without loss of integrity brought Him forth, and after His birth preserved her virginity inviolate, let him be condemned.”
- Blessed Pope John Paul II: “Mary was therefore a virgin before the birth of Jesus and she remained a virgin in giving birth and after the birth.”

Brothers & Sisters of Jesus?

LANGUAGE:

- Lot, who was the nephew of Abraham (cf. Gen 11. 27-31) is called his brother in Gen 13:8 and 14:14-16.

LOGIC:

- Why Give Mary to John if there are other children?

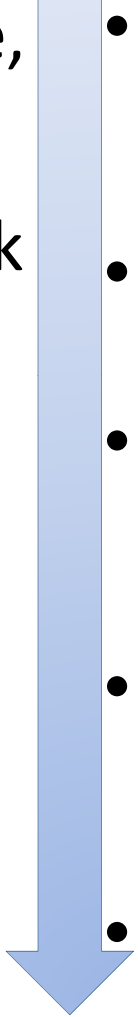
TRADITION:

- There is a strong rabbinic tradition that Moses, after his first contact with God, refrained from “knowing his wife.” Moses’ practice of perpetual virginity first appears in Philo, is taken up the by rabbis.

JESUS – GOD OF TIME & SPACE

- John 6:21 → So they were willing to help *Jesus* into the boat. *Immediately*, the boat reached the *shore* where they were going
- John 20:19 → *Though* the *doors* were *locked*, *Jesus* came and stood among them
- John 20:26 → *Though* the *doors* were *locked*, *Jesus* came and stood among them

OLD TESTAMENT

- 
- Does not predict future, but reveals it
 - Provides the framework to understand the New
 - Always is ordered toward (preparing us for) the fulfillment of something greater
- **Grain offering of Abel:**
offers back to God the fruits of Creation
 - **Bread & Wine of Melchizedek:**
Priestly offering
 - **Sacrifice of Isaac:**
in Thanksgiving with Abraham (Father of Faith)
 - **Passover Meal:**
with Moses to save God's people
 - **Last Supper:**
with Jesus is the fulfillment

FRUITFULNESS?

- Gen 18:9-15 → Sarah is old & barren → Gives birth to Isaac; Abraham is Father of all Nations
- 1 Samuel 1 → Womb of Hannah is closed → Gives birth to Samuel who anoints David as God's King
- Luke 1:7 → Elizabeth is old & barren → Gives birth John the Baptist, the greatest man to ever live
- Luke 1:34 → Mary is a virgin → Gives birth to Jesus, the Savior of the World

SO WHAT? LIFE WITHOUT IT...

Mary is destined to be not only the Mother of God, but also our Mother!

John 19:27 → Behold your mother!

Her *perpetual virginity* is her *perpetual fertility* in giving birth to the Church in every generation!

Genesis 3:15 → I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers

Luke 1:48 → All generations will call me blessed



DEC 8: MEDITATIONS

Immaculate Conception

- God has a plan for Salvation ... Mary was conceived in the womb as a part of that plan ... so are we!
 - How do I share in the Mission of Christ? Do I *only* tell others about Christ or do I live out the mission?
- Am I cooperating with Grace to transform and change my life? What are specific examples of what has changed? What is still a work in progress?
 - Am I self-emptying myself through detachment & penance/fasting? Am I allowing God to fill me with His Grace?

Immaculate Conception Meditations Cont.

- Team satan has no ability to create – they can only distort God’s plan. They strategically attack *precisely* where I am to be living out my part of the plan of Salvation. How do my repeated sins disrupt my designed participation in God’s plan?
- The womb of Mary is protected from the attacks of ‘team satan’. The serpent cannot reach me there. Do I seek refuge from temptation in the bosom of Mary (perhaps using the Rosary?) Do I entrust my friends & relatives to Mary’s care and protection?

Sneak Preview:

Assumption of Mary

