

The Blessed Virgin Mary; Part 1

By: Dr. Joel Stroot, DDS

Donuts and Dogma Apologetics Series

St. Michaels Catholic Church

11-8-2015

Opening Prayer

Recap on the Saints

1. All about Relationship: The Family of God... Saints as our brothers and sisters
2. The Father loves to see His children help each other (prayer, acts of love, etc)
3. Saints are not dead. Alive in Christ in Heaven, so not praying to dead people.
4. Scriptural basis for saint and intercessory pray (Rom 15:30, Eph 6:18-19, 2 Th 3:1)
5. Makes sense... Protestants ask each other to pray for one another for surgery, health, etc.

So praying to saints on Earth (alive in earthly body) and saints in Heaven (even more alive in beholding Christ face to face) is similar...
ALL PART OF A FAMILY.

SO.... A great segway into meeting a member of your family... your Mother!

So we will be taking a series of questions and just be scratching the surface to answer them.

Mary: Our Blessed Mother

1. **Why is she our mother?** Because Jesus said so!
“When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!"
[27] Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.” (John 19:26,27) More on this later...

"All true children of God have God for their father and Mary for his mother; anyone who does not have Mary for his mother, does not have God for his father."

--Saint Louis Marie de Montfort

I am a big momma's boy. As with any family, if she is our mother, we defend her! Get excited to share this overflowing love and want to introduce others to her.... It's a love affair! How can you love someone you do not know? So get to know your mother. We must have a real relationship with her that can only come through prayer. Pray the rosary; see the life the Christ through his Momma's eyes. Out of prayer we are filled up, and this overflows into love for others, and a joy that the world can not give or ignore.

["Never be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin too much. You can never love her more than Jesus did."](#)

--Saint Maximilian Kolbe

2. **Do we worship Mary?** We do NOT WORSHIP MARY! We HONOR her!

3. **Why do we honor her?**

Commandment: Honor thy father and mother.

Jesus honored Mary (he did not sin).

Be imitators of Christ....

Therefore, we also honor Mary.

4. **What is so great about Mary?**

A. Mary as Christ's greatest masterpiece!

Art room full of paintings with the Masterpiece in the center and the artist is present in the room.

Is the artist upset when you marvel at the masterpiece? No!!!! He loves it!

All about family!!!!

He does not say as a father... "Do not pay attention to your siblings or mother, just look at me!" No... he LOVES that!

B. She was the first Christian! Her fiat saying yes to God! God became man because of her.

C. Her humility. Shows us how to love Jesus. "Be it done to me according to thy word."

Humility is really just the Truth... period. So she can state with all humility:

"All generations will call me blessed."

D. She brings us closer to her son Jesus. She purifies our prayers to our Lord. Our Lord is very close to His mother, He cannot ignore her requests.

E. Her strength to fight the powers of Hell and Satan. The rosary is the weapon, the scourge of the Devil.

Example is the protoevangelium or "first gospel proclamation" of Gen 3:15 where God is speaking to the serpent "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

5. **Was Mary sinless?** Yes! It is known as the Immaculate Conception: She was conceived without sin! (*Declared by Pope Pius IX in his papal bull Ineffabilis Deus. 1854, celebrated Dec 8)*)

If you could make your own mother, how would you make her?
PERFECT!!!

Jesus could do that as He is God! So He made her perfect, without the stain of original sin.

Mary still needs a savior, as she is not Divine!

Analogy of stepping in a mud puddle. She was saved from stepping into the mud puddle!

Yet she still retained free will! A great mystery of love!

Again, had cooperation with the Will of God in complete Humility. Her fiat!

- "Let it be done to me according to your word." Luke 1:38
- Notice how she was "full of grace" (ie...pointing to her sinlessness) before the incarnation as seen in Luke 1:26-28: in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!"

6. **Why is one of the titles for Mary the "Mother of God"?**

Mary is the mother of Jesus.

Jesus is God.

Therefore, Mary is the Mother of God.

We think linear, as though it implies that she preceded Christ. But this is not the case. Why?.... Must look into philosophy of natures (what) and persons (who).

Jesus has two natures (human and Divine united in the hypostatic union) and we have only one (human).

Yet, despite having these two natures, He is still only one Person (God/the second person of the Holy Trinity).

Since this son born of Mary is a single Person (who is God), she is rightly called the Mother of God (he is not strictly a human person)

Put another way, women do not give birth to natures, but to persons!
Did your mom just give birth to just your human nature? No! She gave birth to YOU, your whole person!

(Online: <http://www.catholic.com/quickquestions/isnt-it-blasphemy-to-call-mary-the-mother-of-god>; 9-1-15)

7. Why all this hype about Mary for Catholics?

#1 She is our mom and we love her!

#2 If you mess with Mary, you mess with Jesus!

Mary is usually depicted holding Jesus. Chisel away Mary, and Jesus crashes to the ground! (Ex. If Mary is not the mother of God, then is Jesus really God? Is He only a human person with a human nature?)

Bible on Mary:

Mary and our beliefs in her are rooted in Scripture or at least implied in Scripture. Of course, Scripture does not claim to be the sole source and authority of all that we believe. After all, Christ left us a Church, and not a Bible.

Yet...

Mother of God:

Luke 1:43 Elizabeth called her "mother of my Lord"=God

Mt 1:23 Virgin to bear a son Emmanuel "God is with us"

Gal 4:4 God sent His Son, born of a woman

Early Church Quotes on Mary:

1. Mary as the New Eve and Mother of us all...

"For just as the former [Eve] was led astray by the word of an angel, so that she fled from God when she had transgressed His word; so did the latter [Mary], by an angelic communication, receive the glad tidings that she should sustain God, being obedient to His word. And if the former did disobey God, yet the latter was persuaded to be obedient to God, in order that the Virgin Mary might become the patroness of the virgin Eve. And thus, as the human race fell into bondage to death by means of a virgin, so is it rescued by a virgin; virginal disobedience having been balanced in the opposite scale by virginal obedience."

St. Irenaeus, *Against Heresies*, Bk. 5, 19.1 (c. 180 A.D.)

Irenaeus was a student of Polycarp, who was a student of John the Apostle!
Can't get much further back than that!

Or how about St. Louis De Montfort:

"Have you strayed from the path leading to heaven? Then call on Mary, for her name means "Star of the Sea, the North Star which guides the ships of our souls during the voyage of this life," and she will guide you to the harbor of eternal salvation."

— Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort, *The Secret Of The Rosary*

This a good place to put in a good plug for the consecration to Jesus through Mary using St Louis De Montfort method as shown in Fr Michael Gaitly's 33 Days to Morning Glory that has just begun, so get plugged in. See Theresa Ostendorf for more info on this golden opportunity!

Other Quotes about Mary:

"The reason why Christ is unknown today is because His Mother is unknown."

--Blessed Cardinal John Henry Newman

Or how about this one?

". . . she is rightly called not only the mother of the man, but also the Mother of God. . . . it is certain that Mary is the Mother of the real and true God."

Guess who said it.... MARTIN LUTHER

{Sermon on John 14. 16: Luther's Works (St. Louis, ed. Jaroslav, Pelican, Concordia. vol. 24. p. 107)}

[She is the] highest woman and the noblest gem in Christianity after Christ . . . She is nobility, wisdom, and holiness personified. We can never honor her enough. (Still honor and praise must be given to her in such a way as to injure neither Christ nor the Scriptures.)

(*Sermon, Christmas, 1531*)

In the big picture summary, remember...

We are not believing much in opposition, but more of a fulfillment of Protestant faith. (Why? Mostly due to the Protestants throwing off many beliefs, like they did many Books of the Bible)

The Fullness of Faith

They may ask “Why do have Mary, the Saints, and all that extra non-fundamental stuff that gets in the way between you and Jesus? I go straight to Jesus!”

I would reply “Why do you have a Bible or church?”...Answer: No, no, those things just help us get closer to Jesus. (Bingo! We just have more of those things!)

Deck of Cards analogy

Protestants may react to Catholic Marian devotion, by going to an extreme of not really mentioning her at all in their Theology, associating Mary as being too “Catholic sounding” (ex... She was just a vessel)

We just need to help bring them back from this extreme knee jerk reaction to see the love of a complete family, that she is a mother for every Christian, not just Catholics! We must invite them to be part of this greater family that has not only God as our Father, but Mary as our Mother and saints as our brothers and sisters!

And just remind anyone as Maximillian Kolbe did.... Do not be afraid of loving Mary too much! You can never love her more than Jesus did!

Amen!

Closing Prayer