



# 1<sup>ST</sup> SATURDAY DEVOTION NEWSLETTER

September 2018

## REFLECTING ON THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

By Dan Burke  
[www.catholicexchange.com](http://www.catholicexchange.com)



### In this Issue

Reflecting on the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	1
Feasts for September Thank You	2
God Touched Me	3
Spiritual Enrichment Recommended Upcoming Events	4

The liturgy enthusiastically celebrates Mary's Nativity and makes it one of the most appealing feasts of Marian devotion. We sing in today's Office: "Thy Nativity, O Virgin Mother of God, brings joy to the whole world, because from you came forth the Sun of Justice, Christ, our God." Mary's birth is a prelude to the birth of Jesus because it is the initial point of the realization of the great mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God for the salvation of mankind. How could the birthday of the Mother of the Redeemer pass unnoticed in the hearts of the redeemed? The Mother proclaims the Son, making it known that He is about to come, that the divine promises, made centuries before, are to be fulfilled. The birth of Mary is the dawn of our redemption; her appearance projects a new light over all the human race: a light of innocence, of purity, of grace, a resplendent presage of the great light which will inundate the world when Christ, "lux mundi," the Light of the World, appears. Mary, preserved from sin in anticipation of Christ's merits, not only announces that the Redemption is at hand, but she bears the first fruits of it within herself; she is the first one redeemed by her divine Son. Through her, all-pure and full of grace, the Blessed Trinity at last fixes on earth a look of complacency, finding in her alone a creature in whom the infinite beauty of the Godhead can be reflected.

The birth of Jesus excepted, no other was so important in God's eyes or so fruitful for the good of humanity, as was the birth of Mary. Yet it has remained in complete obscurity. There is no mention of it in Sacred Scriptures and when we look for the genealogy of Jesus in the Gospel, we find only what refers to Joseph; we find nothing explicit about Mary's ancestry except the allusion to her descent from David. Our Lady's origin is wrapped in silence, as was her whole life. Thus, her birth speaks to us of humility. The more we desire to grow in God's eyes, the more we should hide ourselves from the eyes of creatures. The more we wish to do great things for God, the more we should labor in silence and obscurity. ☐

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# FEASTS FOR SEPTEMBER

The feasts on the General Roman Calendar celebrated during the month of September are:

- |    |   |    |   |
|----|---|----|---|
| 2  | Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday                 | 21 | Matthew, Feast  |
| 3  | Gregory the Great, Memorial                                   | 23 | Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday  |
| 8  | Birth of Mary, Feast  | 26 | Cosmas and Damian, Opt. Mem.  |
| 9  | Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday                  | 27 | Vincent de Paul, Memorial   |
| 12 | Most Holy Name of Mary, Opt. Mem.                             | 28 | Wenceslaus; Lawrence Ruiz and Companions; St. Simón de Rojas O.SS. (Spain), Opt. Mem. |
| 13 | John Chrysostom, Memorial                                     | 29 | Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Feast   |
| 14 | Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Feast                           | 30 | Twenty-Six Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday  |
| 15 | Our Lady of Sorrows, Memorial                                 |    |   |
| 16 | Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday                 |    |   |
| 17 | Robert Bellarmine, Opt. Mem.                                  |    |   |
| 19 | Januarius, Opt. Mem.  |    |   |
| 20 | Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Hasang and Companions, Memorial |    |   |
- The feasts of St. Peter Claver (September 9), Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian (September 16), St. Pio (September 23) and St. Jerome (September 30) are superseded by the Sunday liturgy.

## THANK YOU

*... a small and simple phrase that comes from a grateful heart!*

*Psalm 106:2*

### THE 800 OUR FATHER DEVOTION SPONSORS

Las Vegas, Nevada  
September 8, 2018  
Billy & Nicet Santos

Los Angeles, California  
September 22, 2018  
Rudy & Teresa Casasola | Alice Ng  
Frank & Beth Lim | Regina Lim  
Ben & Vincie Ong | Carolina Pineda

### OUR CENACLE CORNER

*Seeking a deeper relationship with God  
through meditation of passages from Holy Scriptures*

#### **The Cross**

#### **THE MEANING OF THE CROSS IN CALVARY**

SIN | DEATH | DEVIL

# GOD TOUCHED ME

## MY SOUL PROCLAIMS THE GREATNESS OF THE LORD!

### PART 1 OF 2

*"For I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD,  
plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."*

*(Jeremiah29:11)*

*By: Gerrard & Denise Gier, Devotees*

During the month of September, the church celebrates our Blessed Mother. This past year has been a quite a journey for me and my family. And with the grace of God, it has brought me into a deeper relationship with Our Lady, which I am ever so grateful for.

One of my favorite passages in the bible is the Canticle of Mary, or Magnificat, which can be found in Luke 1:46-55. *"And Mary said: My soul proclaims the greatness of the LORD; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For He has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His name."* I am always moved whenever I read or hear this passage. It reminds me that with God, anything is possible, and that His love and mercy for us is more than we could ever imagine! It was about this same time last year that my husband found a job after being laid off 11 months prior. It was through God's grace that we were able to survive financially with one income.

With my husband having secured a job, we were able to mentally relax and look forward to Our Lady of Guadalupe pilgrimage in December. October and November came and everywhere people were starting to get ready for the holidays – life was good! Our 8-year-old daughter even preemptively asked me, "Mommy, can we get puppy for Christmas?" I chuckled and said, "You know daddy doesn't want us to have pets right now because mommy and daddy would end up taking caring of it . . . maybe when you're older." She stopped for a moment and then excitedly asked "Well, what about a baby?" I couldn't help but laugh out loud (LOL)! I laughed and said to her "I don't know about that sweetie . . . we'll see . . . whatever God wants!"

Ever since we had gotten married, I would track my cycles following the guidelines for Natural Family Planning. Years ago when our son was about 5 years old and our daughter was 3, I did start having that tug at my heart to have a third child. But at the time, my husband felt he

was not ready to have a third child, but that we would accept whatever God had planned for us. Although I had hoped for a third, it was not in God's plan for us.

Now with the hustle and bustle of Thanksgiving approaching I almost forgot that I had not gotten my period yet. I had been regular my whole life, but after turning 40, my periods would be irregular here and there. Nonetheless, we had been successful using natural family planning methods for the past 12 years. I decided to stop by the doctor's office on my way home from work that Wednesday before Thanksgiving. As I sat in the waiting room, I immediately thought of our Blessed Mother and said "Oh Mama Mary, please be with me now." I began praying the Hail Mary and continued it repeatedly throughout the whole time. Right away I felt a sense of calm and I knew Mama Mary was definitely with me, especially when I received the surprising test result!

The "surprise!" baby in my womb was truly a gift from God! I thanked God for this wonderful blessing and to Mama Mary for always interceding for us! I was reminded of her fiat and I asked her to help me to be the kind of mother she was. I want to be a model of complete faith and trust in the Lord and so I offered the child back to our Eternal Father, trusting Him and offering myself and my family to whatever His divine will was. I also asked our Blessed Mother to always watch over and guide this child that I was now carrying in my womb. I was both nervous and excited to tell my husband the news!

I was curious how he would react, but as always, he was cool, calm, and collected! Sure we were both kind of scared to be restarting this parenting race, but we knew that as long as we kept our family focused on putting God first, our Lord would take care of the rest. I was now offering my daily rosaries for this child and asking for the intercession of Mama Mary and Saint Elizabeth, especially since we were about to go on a trip. ☐

# SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED

## THE CROSS

*To open their eyes,  
in order to turn them from darkness to light,  
and from the power of Satan to God,  
that they may receive forgiveness of sins and  
an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.  
(Acts 26:18)*

*By Victor Araneta*

Although crosses adorn our church, steeples and their likeness are printed, woven, or worn in variety of fashionable way -- only a vague knowledge of the true meaning of the Cross comes to mind.



What really happened at the cross? What does it mean to someone today? Is it all that important? At the cross of Christ, the three mortal enemies of humankind -- sin, death, and the devil -- were confronted and defeated by the Son of God. Jesus took our sins upon Himself at the cross. He bore God's judgment of death on our behalf, as our substitute. God's uncompromising wrath against sin was satisfied. We have been transferred from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light, from the dominion of sin to the dominion of God.

The next time we look at a cross, wear it around our necks, or see its imprint,

remember that sin was judged, death slain, and the devil conquered in Calvary. ☐

WHEN YOU FOLLOW ME, BE PREPARED TO CARRY MY CROSS LIKE SIMON OF CYRENE, COMPELLED AND RELUCTANTLY WANTED TO CARRY MY CROSS. I WILL GIVE YOU CHANCE TO CARRY THE BURDEN OF LIFE'S CROSS, MY CHILDREN. SEE THE LIGHT AND SPIRITUALITY OF GOD'S PATH OF SALVATION.

JESUS, YOUR LOVING AND MERCIFUL GOD  
08182018

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### TOY DRIVE FOR THE LOS ANGELES CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

PLEASE DROP OFF YOUR NEW UNWRAPPED TOYS EVERY 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> SATURDAYS AT THE CONVENT OF THE SISTER DISCIPLES OF THE DIVINE MASTER

### THE 800 OUR FATHER DEVOTION

IN LOS ANGELES:  
THE CONVENT OF THE SISTER DISCIPLES OF THE DIVINE MASTER  
BEGINNING WITH A MASS AT 8:30 AM  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2018

IN LAS VEGAS:  
THE CENACLE HOUSE  
8455 WEST SAHARA AVENUE  
UNIT 172, LAS VEGAS, NV 89117  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2018

### THE ARK ENCOUNTER

WILLIAMSTOWN, KENTUCKY  
SEPTEMBER 28 TO  
OCTOBER 1, 2018

DAILY ACTIVITIES AND OTHER INFORMATION ARE AVAILABLE AT  
[WWW.SPIRITUALARMYOFGOD.ORG](http://WWW.SPIRITUALARMYOFGOD.ORG)