

**Mary Mother of God – Our Lady of the Seas**  
**September 9, 2018**

**Salesian Perspective**

Mary is celebrated in surprising places; she is the person who has been on the cover of *Time Magazine* more than any other.

Mary is honored with many, many titles. Today we celebrate her under the most basic of all her titles: Mary the Mother of God. This is the one title from which all others flow - and my personal, only title. For me, all other titles are redundant. All other titles derive from this one. She, a young, unknown Jewish girl from a relatively obscure village, was chosen to bear in her body the Messiah.

Little is known about her. Matthew and Luke are the only two authors in the New Testament that include any description of events before Jesus began his public ministry. Nothing at all is known about Mary prior to the angel's arrival.

Devotion to her approached adoration by the beginning of Vatican II in 1962, there was a proposal to publish a separate document on Mary. The council fathers decided against it. They noted that many of the faithful were honoring Mary more than Jesus. So, the council fathers decided to speak of Mary in the context of the church. Why? She was present at its foundation; she was the mother of Jesus and she was one of his first disciples.

There is a dubious Latin inscription in many churches: *Ad Jesum per Mariam* - to Jesus thru Mary. We cannot ever forget that Jesus/God is the end point of our prayer and worship. We need no intermediary when we speak to our Lord – his door is always open; there is no gatekeeper.

The primary place of Jesus is brought out in today's Gospel. When we carefully read it, we recognize that the focus is not on Mary but on Jesus and what his coming into the world means. This highlights the difference between how Peter reacted so differently, decades later, at Jesus' transfiguration from the way Mary reacted, here. Peter experienced a marvel and said: let's do something – let's build three tents here. Mary's reaction to her experience of angels and shepherds is not to do, but to treasure, to reflect, to ponder.

Reflection follows observing and listening carefully. She took the experience to heart. She quietly went over the words, interacted with the experience, allowed it to saturate her memory of it. Mary's attitude of treasuring and pondering brings us back to the very heart of Christianity: Jesus - the one whom she treasures and ponders. Besides forming Jesus body during her pregnancy, Mary would later help Jesus form his human personality as he grew. We need to remember that Jesus was like you and me in all things but sin. His mother influenced his

personality as our mothers influenced us. For us, there were traits we took on from our mother and perhaps others we did not take. Jesus' personality traits can also be traced to his mother: his gentleness, his compassion for people who were hurting, his kind and respectful treatment of women in an historical period that treated women as things, mere possessions. These gifts were part of her motherhood; these were the qualities she passed on to Jesus



**Happy Feast Day to Our Mother Mary, Our Lady of the Seas.**

**TODAY IS SPECIAL BECAUSE...** *"We are celebrating our parish's feast, Mary, Our Lady of the Seas, which was established in 2016 to honor our patroness.*

**A PRAYER ON THE FEAST OF MARY, OUR LADY OF THE SEAS:** *Father, grant, we pray, that by the charitable intercession of Mary, Our Lady of the Seas, we may be delivered from all evil on earth and arrive at the everlasting joys with you in Heaven, through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.*



**After the 9:00 am Sunday mass, ladies from the Martha and Mary Ministry will host the first Coffee Sunday of the fall season. Please join us at the social hall after Mass for coffee, goodies, and fellowship.**

*Mass Intentions for the Week*



**✠ In memory of Bob Martini – Friday 4:00 pm**  
*Requested by his loving wife, Barbara Martini*



**"2018 50/50 OLS RAFFLE"**  
**OUR FINAL WINNER – Diane Duffy from New Jersey**

**Principal Balance on our Mortgage ~ \$124,839.42**  
**Thank you for your continuing support...**

**Pope's Intentions September**  
That young people in Africa may have access to education and work in their own countries.

**The Sacrament of Penance Fr Fred will minister to the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturdays, starting at 4:45 pm, to provide sufficient opportunities for the faithful to receive the grace of the Sacrament of Penance.**



**"Whatsoever happens, never let go; hold steadfastly to God, in peace, trusting His Ever Lasting Love for you."  
~St. Francis de Sales**

**GIVING TREE MEMORIALS**



***Do you want to share in the GIVING TREE? A donation of \$500 will purchase a leaf which has 4 lines to list an inscription. It is quite fitting that the new "GIVING TREE" has taken root in the vestibule of our church. Any questions contact Dave Kelmer 252.986.2719***

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM**

1. Parents of Faith Formation students: **it's time to register! Registration for Fall catechism** classes see Claudia Hennessey after Mass or call 252-995-6662
2. **Confirmation Class starts with a SPLASH!** ~ Sept 11th. Tues. The first class of the fall will include a pool party & Cookout 3:15 pm to 6:00 pm! Students will meet at the Fellowship Hall after school and be transported to the Grimm's home for a swim and cookout. Permission slips are required. Contact Jane Grimm (995-0336) or Nancy Rinda (489-2011) for more information ~



**Attention ALL Aspiring Altar Servers!** Rich Kirkman and Gibbs Bricker will be training altar servers this fall. All students who are interested in serving our parish in this meaningful way should contact Gibbs Bricker at [gb5965@gmail.com](mailto:gb5965@gmail.com) for details.

**Volunteer Help Needed Day at the Docks**



**Date: Saturday Sept 15th.**

~ We need 6 to 8 volunteers ~ 1st shift 10:00 to 1:00

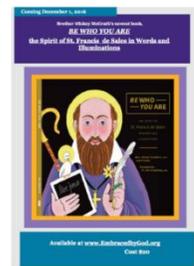
~ We need 6 to 8 volunteers ~ 2nd shift 1:00 to 5:00

~ We need a set up crew at 7:30 am ~ Clean up crew at 4:00 pm

~ We need desserts (cookies or brownies individually wrapped)

**If you can't bake or work, donations to defray costs would be appreciated.**

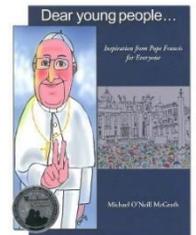
Contact Dave or Karen Kelmer 986-2719 or 305-0100 e-mail at [karenkelmer@gmail.com](mailto:karenkelmer@gmail.com) or sign up in the vestibule.



St. Francis de Sales is one of the wisest of saints when it comes to understanding the human heart. Salesian spirituality makes that timeless wisdom practical and accessible to everyone. In *Be Who You Are, Bro. Mickey* has illuminated some of his favorite quotes of St. Francis about patience

and living in the present moment. And he has also invited some of his fellow Oblates of St. Francis de Sales to share their insights and experiences as well. Enjoy this book. It will provide the perfect meditation to go with your morning coffee.

Pope Francis never made it over the Ben Franklin Bridge to Camden, but we were ready for him at Immaculate Conception cathedral! May his message of mercy and non-judgmental love fill every heart and may we strive to see Jesus in every face.



**Both of these Books are on sale in our vestibule!**

**Our Lady of the Seas Flea Market**



Shoppers and crafters will gather in the Social Hall on Wednesday, October 10 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm for a flea market. Interested crafters should contact Cheryl Layne at 995-9561 To secure a booth. Contributions to the OLOTS table (gently used items) are welcomed at the Hall from 5-7 pm on Tuesday, October 9. Your help will make this event a success!

