



*From the Pastor
23rd Sunday in
Ordinary Time - B
September 9, 2018*

This week, on **September 12**, we have an optional Marian feast that was put back on the Church's universal calendar by **Saint John Paul II**: the **Feast of the Most Holy Name of Mary**. The Bible does

not explain why Jesus' maternal grandparents, named by non-biblical sources as **[Saints] Joachim and Anna**, gave **Our Lady** the name **Mary**. In Aramaic, **'Mariam'** - or as we call her, **'Mary'** - means 'star' or a bright light in the dark night sky: a truly prophetic name! *[In traditional iconography, a star is on or over Mary, as seen on her right shoulder above.]*

This **Marian Feast**, which honors her holy name - and all who have been aided by calling upon her holy name - began in Spain more than 500 years ago. In 1492, against all odds, Spanish Christian forces won a decisive battle against Moslem armies who sought to forcibly convert - or execute - Spanish Christians, who had prayed to Mary for help in fighting radical Islam. *[Sound sadly familiar?]* This may be why ISIS conducted terrorist attacks in Barcelona and other Spanish towns last year, although Spain is not a major player in the War against Terror.

Collect - The Most Holy Name of Mary

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, for all who celebrate the glorious name of the Blessed Virgin Mary, she may obtain your merciful favor. Through our Lord Jesus Christ ... and ever. Amen.

DO WE CALL ON THE POWER OF MARY'S MOST HOLY NAME?

In 1683, Pope Innocent XI extended this **Feast** to the universal Church, but in the revisions of the Roman Missal after the 1960's Second Vatican Council, it was not included. Why? Some felt we had enough **Marian Feasts**; some even said we had too many! Knowing how much **Saint John Paul** relied on our **Blessed Mother's** never-failing intercession during the persecutions he suffered in Communist Poland - and as Pope - no wonder he restored it to our liturgical calendar! Do we wisely call upon **Mary's most holy name?**

Prayer over the Offerings - Most Holy Name of Mary
May the intercession of Blessed Mary ever-Virgin commend our offerings, we pray, O Lord, and may it make us acceptable to your majesty as we revere and venerate her name. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

WE REVERE & VENERATE MARY'S NAME. As our first Pope said of the holy name of Jesus: **"There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved."** *[Acts 4:12]* No Pope since Peter has - or ever will - say we can be saved **BY** any other name ... but Popes can and do say we can be profoundly **HELPED** by calling on the name of she who best models the only One we WORSHIP: our Triune God. However, calling on the most holy name of **Mary** is not magic; we who seek our **Blessed Mother's** guidance, direction and intercession must strive to follow her example of total trust in and devotion and dedication to God's word.

Prayer after Communion - Most Holy Name of Mary

May we obtain the grace of your blessing, O Lord, through the intercession of Mary, the Mother of God, that from her, whose holy name we venerate, we may obtain help in our every need. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

HELP FROM THE HIGHEST OF PLACES. Some say Islamic terrorists chose to attack the USA on **September 11, 2001** to avenge their September 1492 and September 1683 defeats. While Christians sadly once imposed a 'convert or be executed' rule on Moslems and Jews ... as they did to us ... we matured past such violence ... and pray our Islamic brothers and sisters will do the same. Did you know the Moslem holy book, the Quran, mentions only one woman by name: 'Maryam,' who miraculously bore 'Isa.' They only revere her as a prophetess and 'Isa' as a prophet, but the Quran considers her so pure and free from defilement that she could serve in the temple: a job usually reserved to men! So maybe **Our Lady** can be a bridge in our quest for peaceful coexistence with Islam! **Blessed be the holy name of Mary, Virgin and Mother!**

With God's love and my prayers,

Father Mike

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