



8 MAY

OUR LADY OF THE STAR

Feast

The origin of the Sanctuary of Our Lady of the Star in Montebourg, Normandy, France, is lost in legend. A Benedictine monastery was founded there in the eleventh century and remained throughout the lower Middle Ages one of the four great abbeys of Cotentin. The sanctuary was demolished, along with the monastery, during the time of the French Revolution at the end of the eighteenth century. Both structures were rebuilt by the Brothers of the Christian Schools of Mercy, beginning in 1842. This diocesan community of religious teaching brothers, like the sisters of the same name founded by Saint Mary Magdalene Postel, followed the Rule of the Brothers of the Christian Schools of De La Salle. They chose to be incorporated in 1938 into the Lasallian Institute. Today the Institute supervises the Lasallian schools in Montebourg, and the Association of Friends of the Monastery and Sanctuary acts as the custodian of this ancient Marian shrine. A number of Brothers of the Christian Schools are individual members of this association.

MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Blessed are you, Virgin Mary, who carried the creator of all things in your womb; you gave birth to your maker, and remain forever a virgin.

OPENING PRAYER (COLLECT)

All powerful God, we rejoice in the protection of the Blessed Virgin, Our Lady of the Star. May her prayers help to free us from all evils here on earth and lead us to eternal joy in heaven. Through Christ our Lord.

FIRST READING

Revelation 11:19; 12:1-6, 10

A great sign appeared in the sky.

A reading from the book of Revelation

Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant could be seen in the temple. A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was with child and wailed aloud in pain as she labored to give birth. Then another sign appeared in the sky; it was a huge red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on its heads were seven diadems. Its tail swept away a third of the stars in the sky and hurled them down to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman about to give birth, to devour her child when she gave birth. She gave birth to a son, a male child, destined to rule all the nations with an iron rod. Her child was caught up to God and his throne. The woman herself fled into the desert where she had a place prepared by God. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:
"Now have salvation and power come, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Anointed." The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Is 61: 10.11; 62: 2-3

I sing for joy in the presence of the Lord.

I will rejoice heartily in the Lord,
my being exults in my God;
For he has clothed me with garments of salvation,
and wrapped me in a robe of justice,
Like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem,
as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

As the earth brings forth its shoots,
and a garden makes its seeds spring up,
So will the Lord GOD make justice spring up,
and praise before all the nations.

Nations shall behold your vindication,
and all kings your glory;
You shall be called by a new name
bestowed by the mouth of the Lord.

You shall be a glorious crown in the hand of the Lord,
a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

SECOND READING

Gal 4: 4-7

*The Son of God born of a woman***A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians**

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom those under the law, so that we might receive adoption. As proof that you are children, God sent the spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 2: 19

Alleluia, Alleluia.

And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.

Alleluia.**GOSPEL**

Lk 2:41-52

*Our father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety.***A reading from the gospel according to Luke**

Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced [in] wisdom and age and favor before God and man.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Brothers and sisters, let us pray to God through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Christ and of the Church:

R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessions...

Watch over with goodness, O Lord, this family of yours that is honored to have the Blessed Virgin Mary as its Mother. Grant through her intercession that we act in accord with our vocation and participate in the fullness of your grace. Through Christ our Lord

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Father, as we celebrate the memory of the Virgin Mary, we offer you our gifts and prayers. Sustain us by the love of Christ, who offered himself as a perfect sacrifice on the cross and is Lord forever and ever.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Rejoice, Virgin Mother, for Christ has risen from his grave.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, may this sacrament strengthen the faith in our hearts. May Mary's Son, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaim to be God and man, bring us to eternal life by the saving power of his resurrection, for he is Lord forever and ever.

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary

INVITATORY PSALM

We recite the Invitatory Psalm at the beginning of the Hours: it comes before the Office of Readings or the Morning Office (Lauds) depending on whether you begin with one or the other.

V/. Lord, open my lips,

R/. And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

Ant. On the feast of Our Lady of the Star, Queen and Mother of the Christian Schools, we praise Christ her Son. (T.P. Alleluia)

PSALM 95

Encourage yourselves daily while it is still "today"

Heb 3: 13

Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord;
cry out to the rock of our salvation.
Let us greet him with a song of praise,
joyfully sing out our psalms.

For the Lord is the great God,
the great king over all gods,
Whose hand holds the depths of the earth;
who owns the tops of the mountains.

The sea and dry land belong to God,
who made them, formed them by hand.
Enter, let us bow down in worship;
let us kneel before the Lord who made us.

For this is our God,
whose people we are,
God's well-tended flock.
Oh, that today you would hear his voice:
Do not harden your hearts as at Meribah,
as on the day of Massah in the desert.

There your ancestors tested me;
they tried me though they had seen my works.
Forty years I loathed that generation;
I said: "This people's heart goes astray;
they do not know my ways."

Therefore I swore in my anger:
"They shall never enter my rest."
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen

OFFICE OF READINGS

SECOND READING

How useful and advantageous it is for us to invoke her holy name in our needs

From the "Meditations" of St. John Baptist de La Salle, priest.

Med. 164: The Holy Name of Mary

Today the Church celebrates the feast of the holy name of the Most Blessed Virgin to teach us how useful and advantageous it is for us to invoke her holy name in our needs. The name Mary, by which we honor the Most Blessed Virgin, means star of the sea. It is, says Saint Bernard, very well given to her, because she is indeed a star that enlightens, guides, and leads us to a harbor in the stormy sea of this world. This holy Virgin, says the same saint, is for us the star that rose out of Jacob,¹ whose ray, which is Jesus Christ, enlightens the whole world,² for she conceived him in her virginal womb like a star that sends forth its rays without any corruption and enlightens all the world, as Saint Bernard expresses it, following Saint John's Gospel. She is this clear and brilliant star, says Saint Bernard, rising above this great and spacious sea, shining by her merits, and enlightening by her example.

You have, without doubt, a need for light in this life, where you are always as if upon a stormy sea at the risk of your salvation. Have recourse to Mary. She will enlighten you and help you know God's will for you, because she shares in the light of Jesus Christ, her Son, who came into this world to enlighten everyone (even though many did not recognize him).³ She is a light shining in the darkness.⁴ Ask her often, then, to enlighten your mind and to make it docile to the truth. Because she knows the truth perfectly, it is easy for her to instruct you in the truth and to make you understand what you, who are only in darkness, cannot understand.

The road you must follow through this life being so dangerous, you need a guide to walk safely. You cannot have a better guide than the Most Blessed Virgin, because she is most pure within and without, because the saints call her the treasurer of the graces that God has given to her to share them with you, and because she knows all the paths and means to keep you safe amid the dangers you will encounter. This is why it is most advantageous to allow yourselves to be guided by her, because, says Saint Bernard, when we follow her, we cannot go astray; when we think of her, we cannot wander from the right path; when we pray to her, we can never despair of reaching the place where we intend to go; when she helps and upholds us, we cannot fall; when she protects us, we can fear nothing, and when she guides us, we cannot grow weary.

In dangers and in narrow, perilous paths, think of Mary. Invoke her sacred name, and at once you will find comfort and deliverance from all your troubles. Oh, how happy you are, if you are devoted to the Most Blessed Virgin, to have easy recourse to her holy name and by this invocation alone to be safe in the midst of all the problems of so difficult a journey!

It is not enough to sail securely. You must reach the harbor; otherwise, all the distance you have covered will be of no avail, because it will not be the goal you set out to attain. This star of the sea, the Most Blessed Virgin, will guide you there without difficulty, because she knows very well where you are going and is familiar with the way you must follow to arrive there. She knew for herself the road to reach the goal, and she has arrived there. Because she had a perfect understanding of the ways of God and was so abundantly prepared by his grace, this set her on the path and made her understand how happy a person is when carried by the grace of God, as the author of the Imitation of Jesus Christ says very well.

We are in this world only to save ourselves, and we will find all the means we need for this in the womb of the Most Blessed Virgin, where Jesus Christ lived and which he sanctified by the dwelling he made there. He also left there an abundance of grace able not only to fill totally the soul of the Most Blessed Virgin but also to enlighten, enliven, and inflame the hearts of those who have recourse to her by invoking her holy name. Adopt this devotion; ask God for it on this holy day. Remember her name, and invoke it often with all the respect and veneration it deserves.

For a time this feast was celebrated on the Sunday after the feast of the Nativity of Mary. It was inserted into the liturgy by Pope Innocent XI in thanksgiving for the Christian victory over the Turks at Vienna on September 13, 1683. The date of September 12 was fixed during the reform of the liturgy under Pope Pius X (1903–1914). This feast is not in the current liturgical calendar.

RESPONSORY

Rev 12: 1; Ps 44: 10

R/. A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, * and on her head a crown of twelve stars. Alleluia.

V/. a princess arrayed in Ophir's gold comes to stand at your right hand.

R/. and on her head a crown of twelve stars. Alleluia.

HYMN: TE DEUM

We praise thee, O God :
we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.
All the earth doth worship thee :
the Father everlasting.

To thee all Angels cry aloud :
the Heavens, and all the Powers therein.

To thee Cherubim and Seraphim :
continually do cry,
Holy, Holy, Holy :
Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heaven and earth are full of the Majesty :
of thy glory.

The glorious company of the Apostles : praise thee.
The goodly fellowship of the Prophets : praise thee.
The noble army of Martyrs : praise thee.

The holy Church throughout all the world :
doth acknowledge thee;
The Father : of an infinite Majesty;
Thine honourable, true : and only Son;
Also the Holy Ghost : the Comforter.

Thou art the King of Glory : O Christ.
Thou art the everlasting Son : of the Father.
When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man :
thou didst not abhor the Virgin's womb.

When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death :
thou didst open the Kingdom of Heaven to all believers.
Thou sittest at the right hand of God : in the glory of the Father.

We believe that thou shalt come : to be our Judge.
We therefore pray thee, help thy servants :
whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.
Make them to be numbered with thy Saints : in glory everlasting.

O Lord, save thy people :
and bless thine heritage.
Govern them : and lift them up for ever.
Day by day : we magnify thee;

And we worship thy Name : ever world without end.
Vouchsafe, O Lord : to keep us this day without sin.
O Lord, have mercy upon us : have mercy upon us.

O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us :
as our trust is in thee.
O Lord, in thee have I trusted :
let me never be confounded.

PRAYER

All powerful God, we rejoice in the protection of the Blessed Virgin, Our Lady of the Star. May her prayers help to free us from all evils here on earth and lead us to eternal joy in heaven. Through Christ our Lord.

MORNING PRAYER

Ant. Ben. Rejoice, Virgin Mary: God has looked upon with kindness, you are the greatest among women.
(T.P. Alleluia)

CANTICLE OF ZACHARY

Lk 1: 68-79

The Messiah and his forerunner

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
for he has visited and brought redemption to his people.
He has raised up a horn for our salvation
within the house of David his servant.

Even as he promised through the mouth
of his holy prophets from of old:
salvation from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us.

To show mercy to our fathers
and to be mindful of his holy covenant
and of the oath he swore to Abraham our father,
and to grant us that, rescued from the hand of enemies,
without fear we might worship him
in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
And you, child, will be called prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
to give his people knowledge of salvation
through the forgiveness of their sins,

because of the tender mercy of our God
by which the daybreak from on high will visit us
to shine on those who sit in darkness and death's shadow,
to guide our feet into the path of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

BENEDICTUS

Benedíctus Dóminus Deus Israel, *
quia visitávit et fecit redemptiónem plebis suae
et eréxit cornu salútis nobis *
in domo David púeri sui,
sicut locútus est per os sanctórum, *
qui a saéculo sunt, prophetarum eius.
Salútem ex inimícis nostris *
et de manu ómnium, qui odérunt nos;
ad faciéndam misericórdiam cum pátribus nostris *
et memorári testamenti sui sancti,
iusiurandum, quod iurávit ad Abraham
patrem nostrum, *
datúrum se nobis,
ut sine timóre, de manu inimicorum
nostrorum liberáti, *
serviámus illi
in sanctitáte et iustítia coram ipso *
ómnibus diébus nostris.
Et tu, puer, prophéta Altissimi vocáberis: *
praeíbis enim ante fáciem Dómini paráre vias eius,
ad dandam scientiam salútis plebi eius, *
in remissionem peccatorum eorum.
per víscera misericórdiae Dei nostri, *
in quibus visitavit nos oriens ex alto,
illuminare his, qui in ténebris
et in umbra mortis sedent, *
ad dirigéndos pedes nostros in viam pacis.
Glória Pátri, et Filio, *
et Spirítui Sáncto.
Sicut érat in principio, et nunc, et sémpet, *
et in saécula saeculórum. Amen.

INTERCESSIONS

Mary is the Star of the Morning, heralding the dawn. Let us trust in her to bring us to her Son, the One Mediator and Sacrament of reconciliation with the Father.

R) Through the intercession of, hear us, O Lord.

Intercessions...

Our Father.

PRAYER

All powerful God, we rejoice in the protection of the Blessed Virgin, Our Lady of the Star. May her prayers help to free us from all evils here on earth and lead us to eternal joy in heaven. Through Christ our Lord.

EVENING PRAYER

Ant. Magn. Hail Mary, full of grace. Our Lord is with you; Blessed are you among women. (T.P. Alleluia).

CANTICLE OF MARY

Lk 1: 46-55

Rejoicing in the spirit of the Lord

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.
His mercy is from age to age
to those who fear him.

He has shown might with his arm,
dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart.
He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones
but lifted up the lowly.

The hungry he has filled with good things;
the rich he has sent away empty.
He has helped Israel his servant,
remembering his mercy,
according to his promise to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.

MAGNIFICAT

Magnificat *
ánima mea Dóminum,
et exultávit spíritus meus *
in Deo salutári meo,
quia respéxit humilitatem ancíllae suae, *
ecce enim ex hoc beátam me dicent
omnes generátiones,
quia fecit mihi magna, qui potens est, *
et sanctum nomen eius,
et misericordia eius a progénie in progénies *
timéntibus eum.
Fecit poténtiam in bráchio suo, *
dispérsit supérbos mente cordis sui;
depósuit poténtes de sede *
et exaltávit húmiles;
esuriéntes implévit bonis *
et dívites dimísit inánes.
Suscépit Israel, púerum suum, *

recordátus misericórdiae suae,
sicut locútus est ad patres nostros *
Abraham et sémini eius in saécula.
Gloria Patri et Filio, *
et Spiritui Sancto.
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, *
et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

INTERCESSIONS

In communion with Mary, Mother of Our Lord, we turn our prayers to God the Father of light, that he may purify our consciences and make us worthy to behold his face.

R) Mary, full of grace, intercede for us.

Intercessions...

Our Father.

PRAYER

All powerful God, we rejoice in the protection of the Blessed Virgin, Our Lady of the Star. May her prayers help to free us from all evils here on earth and lead us to eternal joy in heaven. Through Christ our Lord.