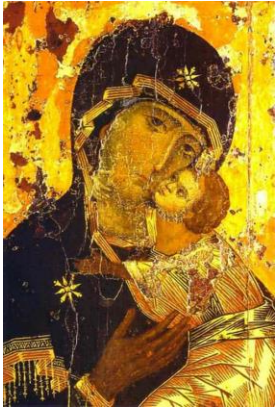


Sermon Notes August 13 The Feast of Saint Mary, Mother of God, Theotokos— “God Bearer”

Faithful, friend, mother, parent, elder

“Hail Mary” “Greetings Favored One” The Angel Gabriel greets Mary to tell her that she will have a child in the first chapter of the Gospel of Luke. The orthodox tradition calls Mary, Theotokos, “God-bearer.” Mary has said yes to the Angel that greets her and tells her not to be afraid. And that she will have a child and will call him Jesus. We use the word Incarnation to say



we believe that “God with us” in human form comes into the world as a baby whose mother is Mary. The Gospel of Mark and the Gospel of John have not stories of Mary. In Luke we know of Elizabeth who believed she was unable to have children, is also going to have a child. A holy drama unfolds for two women who are cousins and friends, bearing children who they recognize as children who are gifts from God and bring something of God’s abundance, mercy and justice into the world.

Our Lady of Vladimir

This tender icon expresses the Love of God in an intimate, cheek to cheek demonstration of love between Mother and Child. Jesus looks up at Mary, holding her close and Mary’s eyes, in traditional iconography look out at us sharing her great capacity to love with the world, even as her Son looks up at her and beyond inviting us too into this immense Love.

Our Lady of Mercy protecting nuns, monks, nobility, families or even guilds 13th -16th century



The Ravensburger Schutzmantel

Madonna, c. 1480,

Here the poor are protected by the shelter of Mary’s Love. She wears a blue mantle, a symbol of Love and of a prophet .



Do we have a need to recollect the power of Mary, Mother of God who sheltered and protected her Son as an infant and a child? Can we learn from her friendship with Elizabeth, who shared with her both her joy and the wondering about this great thing happening to them meant? Can we with the Gospel writer of Luke imagine what it means to frantically look for a lost child or even imagine that a child might instruct us? Can we imagine Mary walking with us when we flee from a place of famine, flood, or violence? Can we know the comfort Of Mary who grieved for Son who died too soon and saw another Way to be a witness to Love?



Kelly, Lattimore, 2016

Can we allow Mary, beloved of God, mother of Jesus, a witness to the resurrection in her elder years to help us as we navigate following The Way in our own time? Can the icons we write now open for us a way into God's nearer presence in Prayer and action.

This icon, commissioned by Trinity Church Wallstreet places Mary's hands in the prayer position (orans) that is used in prayer and in the celebration of the Eucharist. The child holds their hands up in the air, vulnerable to violence and in the crosshairs of the site of a gun. Mary here, looks not at us, but at the beloved Child she carries now grown nearly to adulthood.

Our Lady prays for all who are targeted by gun violence: African-Americans, the poor and marginalized, and police officers.

All are her children.
All are our brothers and sisters.
Let us ask Our Lady to pray for us."
Fr. James Martin S.J.

Our Lady of Ferguson

Mark Doox, 2015, Trinity Church Wall Street



Peace.

Pastor Susan