

This final flyer that honors Mary will cover the lesser known feasts of Mary that appear in the church's liturgical calendar: Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Our Lady of Sorrows, Our Lady of the Rosary, and St. Mary Major.



### **Our Lady of Mt. Carmel**

The feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel is celebrated on July 16 and was first instituted in the late 14<sup>th</sup> century in commemoration of the approval of the start of the Carmelite order a hundred years earlier. Mt. Carmel is a mountain overlooking the Mediterranean Sea on which a community of monks built a monastery dedicated to the Virgin Mary in 1263. Mt. Carmel was taken by the Muslims in 1291, all the brothers were killed and the convent burned. According to the Carmelite tradition, the Brown Scapular of our Lady of Mount Carmel was presented to St. Simon Stock on July 16, 1251 with the promise that “whoever dies clothed in this shall never suffer eternal fire...” The Carmelites insist the scapular is not an automatic guarantee of salvation and there are conditions to share in the spiritual benefits of the Brown Scapular which is to be a sign of salvation, a protection in danger, and a pledge of peace.



### **Our Lady of Sorrows**

This feast dates back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century and was promoted by the Cistercians and Servites so that by the 15<sup>th</sup> century it was widely celebrated throughout the Catholic Church. In 1817 Pius VII, while in exile but finally liberated by Mary's intercession, extended the feast to the universal Church. It is celebrated on September 15 just after the feast of The Exaltation of the Holy Cross to show Mary's close connection to the sufferings of Jesus. On that day we are invited to reflect on Mary's deep suffering which is summarized in these seven events in her life:

1. The prophecy of Simeon
2. The flight into Egypt
3. Loosing Jesus in Jerusalem
4. Meeting Jesus on his way to Calvary
5. Standing at the foot of the cross
6. Jesus being taken down from the Cross
7. The burial of Jesus



### **Our Lady of the Rosary**

This feast is on October 7 and takes place in honor of a 16<sup>th</sup> century naval victory at Lepanto near the west coast of Greece on October 7, 1571. On that day, the Holy League (Genoa, Spain, and the Papal States) made up of 200 ships fought a battle against the Turkish invaders. At the urging of the Pope, all of Europe prayed the Rosary in preparation for the battle. At the end of the day, all but 13 of the nearly 300 Turkish ships had been captured or sunk. Because of this stunning victory, Pope Pius V was moved to institute the feast under the title of “Our Lady of Victory” which is now celebrated universally as Our Lady of the Rosary.



### **The Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major**

The feast of St. Mary Major is celebrated on August 5 and focuses our attention on a church building, a basilica called St. Mary Major. It is one of the four basilicas in Rome known as patriarchal cathedrals in memory of the first centers of the church. St. John Lateran represents Rome, the See of Peter; St. Paul Outside the Wall, the See of Alexandria, allegedly the See presided over by Mark; St. Peter's, the See of Constantinople; and St. Mary's, the See of Antioch, where Mary is supposed to have spent most of her later life. It is called a patriarchal church because the Pope officiates there on certain occasions. There is a special altar in the church used by the Holy Father and by others with special permission. Tradition says that in August of 352 the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to a wealthy nobleman in Rome. She asked that a church be built on the spot where he would find snow. On that day snow did mysteriously appear and a church was built on that spot and dedicated to Our Lady of the Snows. Even though it seems that this is a legend, a church was built in the fourth century and rebuilt in 434 and rededicated to Mary, the Mother of God, as defined by the council of Ephesus. Theological debate over Christ's nature as God and man reached fever pitch in Constantinople in the early fifth century. The chaplain of Bishop Nestorius began preaching against the title Theotokos, “Mother of God” insisting that the Virgin was mother only of the human Jesus. When Nestorius agreed, the people of Constantinople revolted against the bishop's refutation of a cherished belief. This belief was the defined by the council of Ephesus in 431, refuting Nestorius. This feast reminds us that Mary has been revered throughout the history of the Church as our Mother. As she foretold in her prayer, the Magnificat, “All generations will call me blessed” (Luke 1:48)