

Dear Parishioners and Friends of the Cathedral,

This week, we celebrate one of the numerous feasts that the Church has in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary – ‘The Queenship of Mary.’ Identifying the Blessed Mother as our queen is something that we are quite accustomed to, in fact, we often sing about this tenant of our Marian belief in hymns like the Salve Regina (Hail Holy Queen) and Regina Coeli (Queen of Heaven). But Mary’s Queenship goes much deep than songs and nice sentiments. Her role in salvation history has been prefigured in God’s relationship with us long before she was even born.

There are many ways in which heaven can be described, but one that Jesus Himself often used was to refer to it as the Kingdom of God. And just as ‘kingdom’ would imply, it is ruled over by a king (heaven is a monarchy). Throughout Israel’s history, they were governed in a variety of ways, at times they were governed by patriarchs like Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – akin to a parent as the head of the household. At other times, there were leaders like Moses and Aaron, and later in their history they were guided by a group of individuals known as the judges. But one day, Israel started looking at all the nations around them and noticing that they all had kings, and so they went to the prophet Samuel and told him to go tell God to give them a king also. Now this was somewhat of an insult to God, because He was supposed to be Israel’s king. Samuel came back with a warning, that if they had a king, they wouldn’t like it, because he would tax them and their flocks, conscript their sons as soldiers, and so on. Israel, however, insisted and so God gave them what they asked for. But, God intended to use this imperfect kingdom to foreshadow the perfect kingdom that He would one day establish in His Son. In fact, God made a promise to the most famous of Israel’s kings – David. He told him that from his royal line would come a king who would rule over all the nations forever. That royal successor is Jesus Christ, who came to establish, once and for all, the Kingdom of God.

What we also find prefigured in this Davidic kingdom, is the role of Mary as queen of heaven and earth. In Israel’s clamoring to be like the nations around them, they also took cues from them as to how the monarchy should function. One of the problems that the surrounding nations had was determining who would be queen. It was problematic because polygamy was commonly practiced, and so the king often had many wives. The difficulty was solved by making the king’s mother the queen. In ancient societies, the Queen Mother was a much sought after advocate to whom people would bring their requests, so that they might receive a favorable hearing from the king.

Israel too, in desiring to be like other nations, adopted this office of Queen Mother. Just as the Davidic kingship prefigures its fulfillment in Jesus Christ, so to the Davidic office of Queen Mother prefigures its fulfillment in the Blessed Virgin Mary. She has, from the beginning of the unfolding of God’s plan of redemption, been destined to be our queen. May we always honor her as such, and never cease to bring our needs to her.

Father Sean Ralph



The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist

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Schedule for the Week

August 15 – 4:30 pm Vigil Mass

Confessions: 3:00 - 4:00 pm

Cathedral open 6:30 am–5:30 pm

Sunday, August 16

8:00; 10:30 am; 12:15, 5:30 pm

Cathedral open 7:30 am–6:30 pm

August 17 – Mass: 12:00 pm

Confessions 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Cathedral open 6:30 am-1:30 pm & 3:00-6:00 pm

August 18 – Mass: 12:00 pm

Confessions 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Cathedral open 6:30 am-1:30 pm & 3:00-6:00 pm

August 19-21– Mass: 12:00 pm

Confessions 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Cathedral open 6:30 am–6:00 pm

August 22– 4:30 pm Vigil Mass

Confessions: 3:00 - 4:00 pm

Cathedral open 6:30 am–5:30 pm

Sunday, August 23

8:00; 10:30 am; 12:15, 5:30 pm

Cathedral open 7:30 am–6:30 pm

† Please join in the celebrations of
Weekday & Sunday Mass online at:
<http://SaintJohnCathedral.com/streaming>
at the times marked above with a cross.
Please be aware that if you are in attendance
in the Cathedral at that time,
you may appear in the broadcast.

Starting Soon:

- Parish Home School of Religion (K-8th grade)
- Preparation for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist
- Preparation for Confirmation (Teen or Adult)

To register, contact by email

< capperson@dioceseofcleveland.org >
or call 216 771-6666.

Online Giving - Did you know that you can give to the Cathedral online via our website? You can even set up ongoing donations on a weekly or monthly basis, so that your generosity can continue even if you don’t happen to be at the Cathedral on a given Sunday. Just visit our website at <saintjohncathedral.com> and click on the **WeShare Online Giving** logo on the left hand side of the page. You can give from a Credit Card, Debit Card, or your Checking Account. If you need help setting it up, please feel free to call the Rectory at 216-771-6666. We’d be happy to help set it up for you.