THE MOTHER OF THE WORD: A BIBLICAL STUDY OF MARY

The Emmaus Institute for Biblical Studies
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Wednesday, 6:30-8:00pm, January 8, 15, 22, 29, February 5, 2025 (in person)



1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this study we will consider whether the Catholic teachings about Mary are biblical. Mary, the model disciple, the one whom the Scriptures call blessed among women (Luke 1:42), has become a source of contention for Christian believers throughout the ages. Should Mary really be called the "Mother of God" or "Queen of Heaven and Earth"? Are beliefs such as the Immaculate Conception, her perpetual virginity, or the Assumption to be found in the Bible, or are they the result of over-zealous traditions?

In this course we will journey through the pages of Scripture to learn how they speak of Mary, the Mother of the Word. Throughout this study we will: 1) examine various Old Testament passages to see how they inform the person and role of Mary; and 2) to observe the many ways the New Testament draws from and builds on the Old in its presentation of Jesus' mother. These two aims will provide a context for us to explore how familiar Marian dogmas and devotions find their home in the Word of God.

2. STUDY OBJECTIVES

This study aims to help the participant to:

2.1. Have a firm understanding of how and why we ought to study the Old and the New Testaments together;
2.2. Synthesize how Mary is developed and prefigured in various Old Testament persons and themes;
2.3. Understand and articulate how the New Testament explicitly reveals Mary;
2.4. Understand how certain Marian teachings and devotions became realized and practiced in the early Church;
2.5. Develop a passion for living and growing as a disciple of Jesus Christ through Mary, as the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches: "What the Catholic faith believes about Mary is based on what it believes about Christ, and what it teaches about Mary illumines in turn its faith in Christ" (*CCC* 487);
2.6. Prepare a compilation of notes and materials, suitable for leading a small group or individual through the same.

3. STUDY MATERIALS

- Sacred Scripture, the Bible (instructor will commonly use either the RSVCE 2nd or the ESVCE)
- Leader's Guide notes (provided and included in the registration)
- For further recommended reading, see Bibliography below

4. SESSION TOPICS AND RECOMMENDED READING

CLASS/DATE		TOPIC	RECOMMENDED READING(S)
1	1/8/2025	Mary, The New Eve	Gen 2:18-3:21; John 2:1-12; Rev 12:1-6 (Hahn, Ch. 2)
2	1/15/2025	Mary, The New Ark	2 Sam 6:1-19; Luke 1:39-45 (Hahn, Ch. 3)
3	1/22/2025	Mary, The Queen Mother	1 Kings 1:49-53; 2:13-19 (Hahn, Ch. 4)
4	1/27/2025	Mary, The Mother of the Word	1 Sam 2:1-10; Luke 1:46-56
5	2/5/2025	Mary, The Mother of the Body of Christ	Luke 2:1-21; John 19:25-27; Rev 12:1-6 (Hahn, Chs. 6 and 8)

5. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bergsma, John and Brant Pitre. *A Catholic Introduction to the Bible: The Old Testament.* San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2018.

Brown, Raymond E., Karl P. Donfried, Joseph A. Fitzmeyer, and John Reumann, eds. *Mary in the New Testament.* New York/Mahwah: Paulist Press, 1978.

Daniélou , Jean, S.J. *From Shadows to Reality: Studies in the Biblical Typologies of the Fathers*, 2018 edition. Ex Fontibus Company, 2018.

Farkasfalvy, Denis, O.Cist. *The Marian Mystery: Outline of a Mariology*. Staten Island, NY: Society of St. Paul, 2014.

Hahn, Scott. *Hail Holy Queen: The Mother of God in the Word of God*. New York: Doubleday, 2001.

Pope St. John Paul II. *Theotókos: Woman, Mother, Disciple. A Catechesis on Mary, Mother of God*. Boston: Pauline Books and Media, 2000.

Pitre, Brant. *Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary*. New York: Image, 2018.

Ratzinger, Joseph. *Daughter Zion: Meditations on the Church's Marian Beliefs*. Translated by John M. McDermott, S.J. San Francisco: Ignatius, 1983.

———. *Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives.* Translated by Philip J. Whitmore New York: Image, 2012.

Sheen, Fulton J. *The World's First Love: Mary, the Mother of God.* San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2011.

Sri, Edward. *Rethinking Mary in the New Testament*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2018.

———. *Walking With Mary: A Biblical Journey from Nazareth to the Cross.* New York: Image, 2013.