

# *Kidane-Mehret*

Ge'ez Rite Ethiopian Catholic Church



**February 2018**

**Rev. Abayneh Gebremichael, M.A., B.C.C., Pastor**

Divine Liturgy 9:30 am at St. Vincent de Paul, 14M Street SE Washington, DC 20003.

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## **Important Parish Information**

**Newcomers to the parish:** Please fill out your full names and addresses on the Registration Form. The Catholic Church requires that each member of a parish, to the extent allowed by his income, support the day-to-day running of the parish's pastoral activities.

### **Sacraments and Pastoral Care**

**Baptisms:** Please telephone your pastor at the office to make an appointment to fill out the form and make the necessary arrangements. **Marriages:** It is the policy of the Archdiocese of Washington that couples proposing to marry must first contact, or see, a priest or deacon at least six months prior to the date on which they intend to marry for Marriage Preparation classes. All Catholics are bound to observe the laws of the Church concerning marriage. **Confessions:** are heard before the start of the Divine Liturgy, and any other times by appointment. **Funerals:** Contact your pastor at the parish office to make arrangements. **Hospital Visits:** Notify the pastor if a family member is hospitalized. **Mass Intentions (Stipend):** \$25.00. This is for Memorial Masses, thanksgivings, or petitions.

## *From the Pastor's Desk*

### Mary's intercession



We turn to Kidane-Mehret for help and for comfort. We also share our joy and happiness with her. Mary, covenant of Mercy, is pre-eminently the person we turn to for prayer on our behalf and for others. Many other Christians simply do not understand why we do this. They think that we are taking away from Christ's role as our mediator with the Father.

In the Apostolic creed that originated from the first century and the Nicene Creed that originated in the fourth century there is a sentence that indicates that "We believe the Communion of Saints." Mary, the Mother of God, is one of us. She is human and is first among all saints, part of that communion to which we also belong. One of the responsibilities that we all have is to pray to God for our own needs and the needs of others.

Does God listen to our prayers? When I pray can I get God to change His mind? Will God change because of my prayer? These are questions we all ask. However, prayer is not about limiting God to thinking and reacting like a human, on our level. That is more like a baby's persistent cry to his mother while hanging in her cloth. Our prayer shouldn't be like that. Our prayer should rather be a cry to be united with the will of God because God is full of love and cares for his children. So when I pray for others I show my care and love of my brothers and sisters, the living people on earth and the departed souls. St. Paul said, *"I fall on my knees before the Father from whom every family in heaven and earth receives its true name. I ask God from the wealth of his glory to give you power through his spirit to be strong in your inner selves and I pray that Christ will make his home in your hearts through faith."*

Jesus taught us that the angels are interceding for us all the time: *"See that you don't despise any of these little ones. Their angels in heaven, I tell you, are always in the presence of my Father in heaven"* (Mt 18:10).

Mary has intimate connection with Christ not only in Her physical motherhood but in Her faith, the source of Her power. In the Communion of Saints we too share Christ's power. Christ is the prime example of a mediator. Jesus makes that assurance to John's Gospel, *"I solemnly assure you man has faith in me will do the words I do and greater for than these why? Because I go to the Father and whatever you ask in my name I will do, so as to glorify the Father in the son."* (John 14:12-13).

If we pray with Mary and through her intercession, then we must follow through her style of faith and prayer. As we saw when we considered the annunciation, Mary was totally open to God's initiative, but she also accepted the responsibility of God's will with its costs and demands. We can't pray for health without taking the ordinary means of maintaining or restoring health. We can't pray for peace without getting involved in the structure and system that contribute to peace. Prayer is not genuine if we pray in a detached and passive way, waiting for something to happen. That would be a denial of our belief that we are created and redeemed in freedom, that we are responsible for our lives and the world. In the communion of Saints, we make the journey of Faith together. The idea of the Communion of Saints is another way of defining Church, linking us with those in Heaven and those in Purgatory. Mary journeys with the Church and is forever linked with us and has an effect on us.

#### *Sunday Readings for February 2018*

Feb 4: Rom 9:1-16, 1Peter 2: 20-25, Jn 4: 1-26  
Feb 11: Heb 13:7-16, James 4:6-17, Jn 3:10-24  
Feb 18: 1Thess 4:1-12, 1Peter 1:13-25, Mt 6:16-24  
Feb 25: Col 2:16-23, James: 2:14-26, Jn 2:12-25

#### *1 Kings 2:19-20*

*Then Bathsheba went to King Solomon to speak to him for Adonijah, and the king stood up to meet her and paid her homage. Then he sat down upon his throne, and a throne was provided for the king's mother, who sat at his right. She said, "There is one small favor I would ask of you. Do not refuse me." The king said to her, "Ask it, my mother, for I will not refuse you."*

#### *Prayer to Kidane-Mehret*

We fly to your patronage, O holy Mother of God: Despise not our petitions in our need, but deliver us always from all danger, O glorious and blessed Kidane-Mehret. Amen.

#### *Let us pray for:*

*All baptized Christians throughout the world* that we will show the world that we are Christians **The Parish of Kidane-Mehret**: for Peace, Unity, Harmony and Charity in the Parish. by our love for Christ and one another.

**For the World:** That the King of Peace will reign in every nation and in every heart.

## *Kidane-Mehret*

Kidane-Mehret is beloved by all who know of Her. Not only is She important to the entire Ethiopian Church both Catholic and Orthodox, but She is especially beloved by those whose parishes are dedicated to Her honor. The title, Kidane-Mehret, means Covenant of Mercy. Another venerable title by which St. Mary is known in the Ethiopian Church is Maryam Tsion. Both titles are unique and have counterparts in the Roman Catholic Church, such as Mother of Mercy.

Both Covenant of Mercy and Maryam Tsion attest to the Kingship of Her Son and His relationship to the Church through the new and everlasting covenant. Her singular role as Mother of God is passionately declared in the Anaphora of St. Mary which was composed by Heryacos of Northern Egypt and sent to Yared.

Mary's first act as the Mother of God was to set forth on a journey to visit Her cousin, Elizabeth who also carried a miraculous baby in her womb. It was at this meeting the famous words of Elizabeth were spoken, words



that are said at least 50 times a day by those who recite the Rosary daily. This is quickly followed by a petition that the Mother of God pray for us daily and “at the hour of our death.” Just as Mary was interested in the well-being of Elizabeth, so is She interested in the welfare of all Her Son's family. We can use the word family not only because all were given to Mary at the foot of the cross and She was given to us as Mother, but because of the covenants that God initiated between Himself and man. Dr. Scott Hahn defines covenants contained in “Hail Holy Queen” as solemn agreements made between family members.

Mary's role as Mother of the King began at the Incarnation and was fully ratified at Her death when She was crowned Queen of Heaven and Earth. As Maryam Tsion, this humble young woman bore the Christ Child in Her womb. Now as Queen, She becomes Kidane-Mehret, standing at the King's right hand or as Psalm 45 says, “*Your divine throne endures for ever and ever... daughters of kings are among your ladies of honor; at your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.*” Unique among everyone, the Queen has the special honor of being able to speak to the King in a way no one else can. It was out of this relationship that the title of Kidane-Mehret, or Covenant of Mercy, came to be. And thus we have such confidence in Her love and the efficacy of her petitions to Her Son. Most especially the title confirms Her relationship with

Her Son, and also our relationship with Her as Mother of God and our Mother. Making us all members of God's Family.

In the Anaphora of St. Mary we find both titles of St. Mary delineated. In his silent prayers the priest says, “*O Virgin, when there abode in your womb the fire of the Godhead, whose face is fire, whose clothes are fire, whose covering is fire, how did it not harm you?... In what part of your womb was the glittering cherubic throne, compassed by the flame of fire, prepared and planted while you were a young bride?*” This is an accurate description of Maryam Tsion. In her womb was the High Priest and the Bread of Heaven and the the Word of God Who gave the Law, the actuality of the three symbols in the Ark of the Covenant.

After Holy Communion we are reminded of Her role as Kidane-Mehret, the intercessor, “O Virgin, remind him who remembers... Remind him of mercy and not of destruction. Remind him of compassion and not of anger. Remind him of the sinners and not of the righteous. Remind him of the impure and not of the pure. And now let us glorify the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and world without end.”

Kidane-Mehret, pray for us.

*Mary is loved throughout the world :*



### *In Rome She is known as the Salvation of the People of Rome*

Vatican City, Jan 28, 2018 / 04:09 am (CNA/EWTN News). At Mass in the Basilica of St. Mary Major Sunday, Pope Francis said that when we go through difficult times or have problems or worries, Mary is our shield, guarding our faith and protecting us from evil.

“Where the Madonna is at home the devil does not enter; where there is the Mother disturbance does not prevail, fear does not win,” the Pope said Jan. 28.

“Who of us does not need this, who of us is not sometimes upset or restless? How often the heart is a stormy sea, where the waves of problems overlap, and the winds of worry do not cease to blow! Mary is the sure ark in the midst of the flood.”

Pope Francis celebrated a special Mass at the Basilica of St. Mary Major for the Feast of the transfer of the icon of *Salus Populi Romani*.

### *In India*

Indian tradition holds that this image of Mary, the Mother of Jesus Christ, was painted by St. Luke. It was carried by St. Thomas the apostle to India about one thousand, nine hundred and fifty years ago. Today, Mary continues to be venerated through this painting. It is kept at the main altar in the Church of Mount St. Thomas in Madras, India, the place where St. Thomas was martyred for the Catholic Faith. We see that devotion to Mary goes back to the time of the apostles, who were personally devoted to the Mother of God. The apostles, wherever they went, encouraged all the disciples to honor Mary as their Mother because Jesus gave Her to be the Mother of us all.



### *And in China*



During the Boxer Rebellion in 1900 a great number of soldiers attacked the village of Donglu, Hebei. The village consisted of a small community of Christians founded by the Vincentian Fathers. The Virgin Mary appeared in white, and a fiery horseman (believed to be St. Michael) chased away the soldiers. The pastor, Fr. Wu, commissioned a painting of Mary with the Christ Child dressed in golden imperial robes. The painting became the image of Our Lady, Queen of China. Donglu became a place of pilgrimage in 1924. The image was blessed and promulgated by Pope Pius XI in 1928.

The mother of Christ appeared in China showing herself as the protector and defender for the helpless and the righteous. The significance of this apparition is just being realized now... as China begins to take center stage in the Global World and Economy. Mary hopes for a China that could become a shiny beacon of light, a nation where the family is valued, where all Life is protected and the Chinese people have the right to freely worship the great God Almighty. China now has one of the largest communities of practicing Christians in the world.