

June 17, 2023



Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH CHALLENGING TIMES

Image by Christine Sponchia from Pixabay

MEMORIAL OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

By Sr. Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

An Excerpt From Today's Gospel

Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. After they had completed their days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers. His mother asked him, "Son, why have you done this to us?" Jesus said to them, "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" He went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart.

LUKE 2:41-51

Reflection

Knowing that Jesus, Mary, and Joseph were most likely traveling as a part of a larger group going to Jerusalem and back to Nazareth, it is still shocking to

think Jesus was not with them for three days before they turned back to look for him. Jesus was being obedient to his Father who had sent him. While Jesus went with his parents back to Jerusalem and was obedient to them, we are given one of the few glimpses of Jesus as a child and how Mary and Joseph were parenting him. This passage concludes with a few powerful words – *his mother kept all these things in her heart.*

These words reveal the deep faith of Mary, and we know the burdens and pain she would have to endure as her Son grew into adulthood and began his active ministry. As I reflect on the “Immaculate Heart of Mary,” the question that echoes in my mind is the state of my own heart. Am I firmly grounded in my faith to keep my heart open to whatever God asks of me in any given moment?



An exhibit in the Vatican Art Gallery
Photo by Sr. Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

Beloved Mary Poem

Strong and determined were you, O Blessed Mother,
gentle and loving with Jesus and Joseph.

You, with a heart full of questions and love,

Never faltered as your faith was tested throughout your life.

Holy Mary, pillar of strength and witness,
your life is a model and beacon for all of us to embrace.

For Pondering

- What does the “Immaculate Heart of Mary” mean to you?
 - How does Mary influence your own faith journey?
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For Prayer

*Holy Mary, Mother of God,
may we draw strength and courage from you
as we face our own hardships in life.
We pray for the grace to be strong and steadfast witnesses
of our faith as you were throughout your life.
Amen.*

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