

# St. Athanasius Academy of Orthodox Theology

PO Box 1205, Elk Grove, CA 95759-1205

The Most Rev. Metropolitan JOSEPH, Primate

The V. Rev. Fr. Jon Braun, President

*In The Spirit of Evangelism, We Teach Prisoners-Students Seeking His Incarnational Wisdom*

December 2017

## THE PRESENCE OF MARY - THE NEW EVE

While yet in Eden – the Garden of Paradise – our first Eve, in the innocent curiosity of a child, turned away from the wisdom and warning of the Word. This brought clarity to Moses as to the absolute need of our being clothed, by our Father, in the mortality of His flesh. And this clothing was a blessing unto salvation – a chastisement of His love for us.

Yet in His time, our Lord and Father, became Incarnate to fulfill His prophecies – of His coming to His children with a face and a voice. Yet in this, he asked the help of a young virgin, a handmaiden of the House of David, and a child of promise to Joachim and Anna – as was Isaac the son of Abraham. In gratitude and rejoicing, they gifted Mary to the Temple.

As Mary grew in her knowledge of knowing Him, maturing in her faith in His love, and came of age, it was time for the Messenger of the Lord to offer Mary *the* question of choice. With profound love of Him and in awareness of Scripture – as taught by His Messenger – Mary freely chose to hear His Word, the Wisdom of His Way, and to then follow Him – not confused by the words and vain ways of man's foolish wisdom.

For such is the wondrous mystery of Mary, often called the new *Eve*. She was not only ever-virgin, but was also ever-faithful to Him, putting Jesus, her Son, first in all things. This helps bring focus on the salvific dimension of her veneration, for we too, are called to bear and bring forth His Word and Gospel – to others – as an act of loving kindness.

This great mystery of love, finds its finest expression in the totality of our relationship with Jesus, of working out our troubles, with His Holy guidance. Such is the glory and grace of His Incarnation – the intimacy of Mother with Child and the Bride and Bridegroom.

This month's booklet expands and further develops our relational grasp of Mary, as expressed through the beauty of the Orthodox Church and its liturgy – Part 2 of 3.

May the Wisdom of His Incarnation that taught and guided Mary, lead us Home to Him.



Sincerely - Paul, SAAOT