

Mary and the Early Church Handout

“It is truly proper to glorify you, O Theotokos [God Bearer], the ever-blessed, immaculate, and the Mother of our God. More honorable than the Cherubim and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim; who, a virgin, gave birth to God the Word, you, truly the Theotokos [God Bearer], we magnify”

- Byzantine Hymn “Axion Estin” (10th Century) sung in the Divine Liturgy

“The New Testament lies hidden in the Old and the Old is unveiled in the New”

- St. Augustine of Hippo (4th/5th Century)

The New Ark

“To whom among all creatures shall I compare you, O Virgin? You are greater than them all. O [Ark of the New] Covenant, clothed with purity instead of gold! You are the Ark in which is found the golden vessel containing the true manna, that is, the flesh in which divinity resides”

- St. Athanasius (4th Century), Homily of the Papyrus of Turin

Scripture Background: Exodus 25:1-22 (*Construction*), Hebrews 9:4 (*Contents*), Joshua 6:12-14, 20 (*War*), 1 Samuel 4:5-11 (*Stolen*), 1 Samuel 5 (*Captivity*), 1 Samuel 6:11, 15 (*Recovery*), 2 Samuel 6 (*Jerusalem*) 1 Kings 8:1-21 (*The Temple*), 2 Maccabees 21:-8 (*Hidden*), Revelation 11:19-12:1 (*Seen in Heaven*)

The New Queen

“. . . Majestic and Heavenly Maid, Lady, Queen, protect and keep me under your wing lest Satan the sower of destruction glory over me, lest my wicked foe be victorious against me.”

- St. Ephrem (4th Century), Oratio ad Ssmam Dei Matrem

Scripture Background: 1 Kings 2:13-23

The New Eve

“[The Son of God] became man through a Virgin, so that the disobedience caused by the serpent might be destroyed in the same way it had begun. For Eve, who was virgin and undefiled, gave birth to disobedience and death after listening to the serpent’s words. But the Virgin Mary conceived faith and joy; for when the angel Gabriel brought her the glad tidings that the Holy Spirit would come upon her...she answered ‘Let it be done to me according to your word’”

- St. Justin Martyr (2nd Century), Dialogue With Trypho

“And so the knot of Eve’s disobedience was untied by Mary’s obedience. What Eve bound through her unbelief, Mary loosed by her faith”

- Irenaeus of Lyons, Adversus Haereses

Scripture Background: Genesis 2:18-25 (*Creation of Eve*), Genesis 3:1-15,20 (*The Fall*), John 1:1-5, 29, 35, 43, 2:1 (*Seven days of Creation*), John 2:1-12 (*Wedding at Cana*), John 19:25-27 (*Crucifixion*)