

## **September 15**

### **Feast of the Mother of Sorrows**

On the day following the ancient feast of the Holy Cross we commemorate the compassion of Mary. We meditate on the suffering in the soul of Mary as she saw the suffering and death of Jesus Christ her Son. Simeon predicted that her heart would be transfixed with sorrows. So it was, as she stood under the cross of her Son. She is the Mother and Queen of all those who suffer. As Queen of Martyrs, Mary gives an admirable example of patience.

Readings:

Hebrews 5:7-9

John 19:25-27

*Stabat Mater*

*(attributed to Jacopone da Todi in the 13th Century)*

At the cross her station keeping,  
Stood the mournful mother weeping,  
Close to Jesus to the last.

Through her heart, his sorrow sharing,  
All his bitter anguish bearing,  
Now at length the sword had passed.

Oh, how sad and sore distressed  
Was that Mother highly blessed  
Of the sole begotten One!

Christ above in torment hangs,  
She beneath beholds the pangs  
Of her dying, glorious Son.

Is there one who would not weep,  
Whelmed in miseries so deep,  
Christ's dear mother to behold?

Can the human heart refrain  
From partaking in her pain,  
In that mother's pain untold?

Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled,  
She beheld her tender Child,  
All with bloody scourges rent.

For the sins of his own nation  
She saw him hang in desolation  
Till his spirit forth he sent.

O sweet Mother! font of love,  
Touch my spirit from above,

Make my heart with yours accord.

Make me feel as you have felt;  
Make my soul to flow and melt  
With the love of Christ, my Lord.

Holy Mother, pierce me through,  
In my heart each wound renew  
Of my Savior crucified.

Let me share with you his pain,  
Who for all my sins was slain,  
Who for me in torment died.

Let me mingle tears with you  
Mourning him who mourned for me  
All the days that I may live.

By the cross with you to stay,  
There with you to weep and pray,  
Is all I ask of you to give.

Virgin of all virgins blest!  
Listen to my fond request:  
Let me share your grief divine.

Let me to my latest breath,  
In my body bear the death  
Of that dying Son of yours.

Wounded with his every wound,  
Steep my soul till it has swooned  
In his very blood away.

While my body here decays,  
May my soul your goodness praise,  
Safe in heaven eternally. Amen.

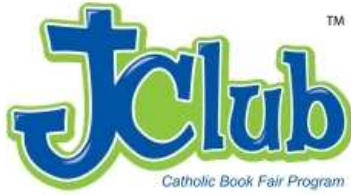
### **Embroider a Picture of Jesus and Mary**

#### **Needed:**

- a color print of a favorite picture of Jesus or Mary on thin paper (or thin holy card)
- different colors of embroidery thread
- cardboard slightly larger than picture

#### **Directions:**

Use fine stitches to fill in colored areas of the picture with like-colored embroidery thread. Use single threads of the finest shiny embroidery thread and stitch the areas of the crown and clothing. Use the satin, chain or simply running stitch. There is no need to tie knots because when you are finished stitching you can glue the card carefully to the cardboard "frame."



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