

Sunday, October 1st



- Who had a vision of the Mother of God coming to protect him and others while they were hiding from attackers inside a church in Constantinople?
- Which country is Mary the patroness of?
- True or false: Mary is also our mother and protects us as if we were her own children.

<u>Praying Together:</u>

Mary, we love you and know that you love us like your own son, Jesus. Pray to Him for us that we may always be protected.

Amen.

Parents' Cheat Sheet - Car Qs Oct. 1/17, Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Mother of God

- 1. Who had a vision of the Mother of God coming to protect him and others while they were hiding from attackers inside a church in Constantinople?
 - 1. St. Andrew, the Fool for Christ.
 - From A Byzantine Rite: Liturgical Year, "the Saracens besieged the capital of 2. Constantinople. The people, terror-stricken, gathered in the church of the Most Holy Mother of God at Blachernae where her mantle¹ was preserved, and there they held an all-night prayer vigil. The greatly distressed people filled the church to overflowing. Among the gathering were St. Andrew and his disciple, Epiphany, both of whom also prayed for the protection of the city. After the service, St. Andrew saw the Most Holy Mother of God in radiant light as she was approaching from the royal doors (a name the Greeks gave to the main doors of the church) in the company of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Theologian and amid the singing of a great choir of Saints. The Mother of God proceeded toward the altar where she knelt down and prayed long, shedding tears. Afterwards she arose, removed from her head a luminous veil, and stretched it out wide over the people in church. Then she disappeared. St. Andrew and his disciple, Epiphany, saw the vision and understood that the Mother of God came to rescue the city. News of the miracle spread throughout the whole city like a flash of lightning. The enemy retreated and the city was saved."
- 2. Which country is Mary patroness of?
 - 1. Ukraine.
 - 2. Ukrainians' devotion to the Mother of God dates back to Kyivan Rus'. Various rulers throughout Ukraine's history have dedicated battles, churches, and people to the Mother of God, with miraculous results. For more information, check out *A Byzantine Rite: Liturgical Year*, p. 229-231 as well as *Catechism of the Ukrainian Catholic Church: Christ Our Pascha*, para. 314-315 on p. 111.
- 3. True or false: Mary is also our mother and protects us as if we were her own children
 - 1. True
 - 2. Through Christ we are known as "children of God" (John 1:10-12; Romans 8:14; 2 Corinthians 6:18; Galatians 3:26-29, 4:6-7). Being brothers and sisters in Christ also means that Mary, Jesus' mother, becomes our mother. Some people also cite John 19:25-27 (where Jesus gives the beloved disciple, John, his mother, Mary, as his mother) as an example where Mary, through John, becomes the mother of all humanity.

¹ What is Mary's "mantle"? The mantle is the piece of cloth that is generally depicted as covering Mary's head, a cloak of sorts. See this discussion at https://forums.catholic.com/t/marys-mantle/166338.

^{***} Resources mentioned can all be found at the Pastoral Centre - 9645 108 Ave, Edmonton, AB