

Reflection Saturday Week 13 – Our Lady on Saturdays 2023

On Saturdays through the year when there is no obligatory memorial, an optional memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary is allowed. Saturdays stand out among those days dedicated to the Virgin Mary. This memorial derives from Carolingian times (9th century), but for reasons unknown. Whatever its historical origins may be, today the memorial rightly emphasizes certain values to which contemporary spirituality is more sensitive. It is a *remembrance* of the maternal example and discipleship of the Blessed Virgin Mary who, strengthened by faith and hope, on that “great Saturday” on which Our Lord lay in the tomb, was the only one of the disciples to hold vigil in expectation of the Lord’s resurrection. It is a *prelude and introduction* to the celebration of Sunday, the weekly memorial of the Resurrection of Christ. It is a *sign* that the Virgin Mary is continuously present and operative in the life of the Church.

That Jacob stole his brothers blessing from Isaac hints of skulduggery!! Yet God watched over Jacob who became the father of the 12 tribes of Israel. The ways of God are not always the ones we might expect. Mary did not expect to be asked to become the mother of Jesus. She said yes. One can see here that the New Wine bore fruit in Mary giving birth to Jesus who became the new wine and a symbol of the new life he won for us on the cross. Is this not a call to take a new look at our faith, how we live it, what we truly believe, is there room for newness on our lives, would we be able to let go of old ways and let the newness of Christ reshape our lives?