



*Catechetical Series:*

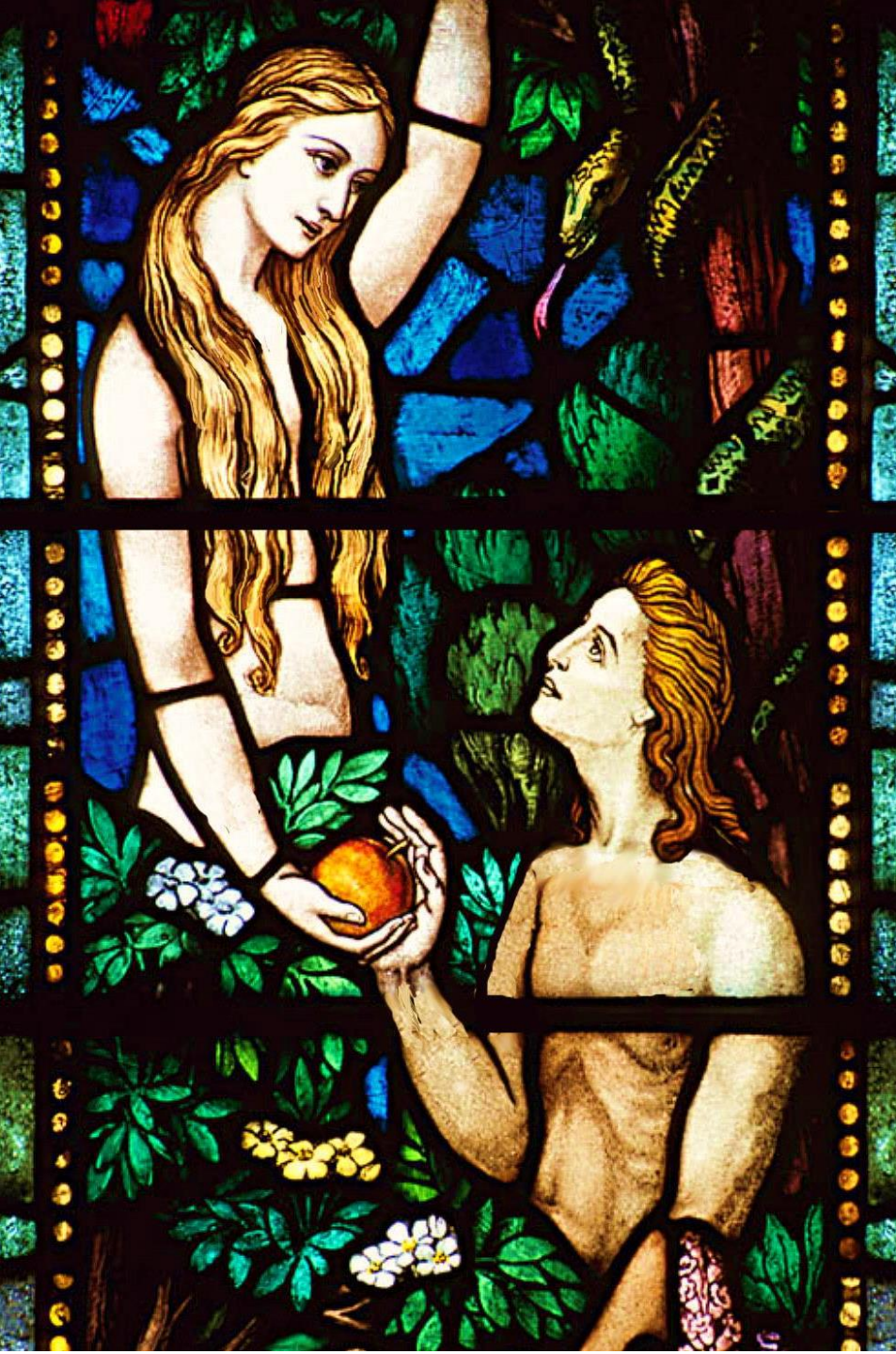
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What Catholics Believe & Why

# MARY, THE NEW EVE

**Behold The Truth**

Discovering the What & Why of the Catholic Faith  
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## The Fall of Man

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- ❖ We all know the story of how Adam and Eve, our first parents, disobeyed God; and how through their disobedience the entire human race fell from grace, and sin and death entered the world.



## The New Adam

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- ❖ Meditating on the Fall of Man in light of our Redemption in Christ, Saint Paul was inspired to describe Jesus as the New Adam.
- ❖ “For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man’s obedience many will be made righteous.”  
Rom. 5:19



# The New Adam

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- ❖ Jesus undid Adam's act of disobedience in the Garden of Eden with His act of perfect obedience to God in the Garden of Gethsemane on the night of His arrest.
- ❖ “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.” Matt. 26:39

If Jesus is the New Adam ...  
who then is the New Eve?



## The New Eve

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- ❖ The Church sees Mary as the New Eve, the one who cooperates with Christ in the defeat of the devil.
- ❖ At the Annunciation she replied, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word.” Luke 1:38
- ❖ Through Mary’s “Yes” to God, Christ, the Son of God, came into the world; and she became the only person to directly cooperate with Him in our Redemption.



## The New Eve

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- ❖ The first Eve believed the lies of a fallen angel and disobeyed God. Through her disobedience sin and death entered the world.
- ❖ The New Eve believed the truth of the Archangel Gabriel and obeyed God. Through her obedience forgiveness and eternal life entered the world through Her Son Jesus Christ.



## The Woman in Genesis

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- ❖ Mary's role fulfills the prophecy of *Genesis* 3:15, in which God declares to the serpent: “I will put enmity between you and the *woman*, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”





## The Woman in Genesis

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- ❖ We call the *enmity* or hatred, which God promises to put between the devil and the woman, who would bear the Redeemer, the *Immaculate Conception*: the grace by which God spared Mary from the stain of original sin from the first instant of her conception.



# The Woman in Genesis

- ❖ In bringing about our Redemption, God willed everything to work in reverse.
- ❖ While the first Eve was formed from the flesh of Adam (from his rib); the New Adam would take His flesh from the New Eve.
- ❖ Therefore, since in the natural order the New Eve would come first, it was necessary for the New Adam and Eve to be not husband and wife, but mother and son.



## Early Church Writings

- ❖ The doctrine of the New Eve was universally taught from a very early date.
- ❖ It was taught by the Early Church Fathers in Asia Minor, North Africa, Rome, and elsewhere, from the second century forward.
- ❖ This indicates it originated from the Apostles themselves.



## Early Church Writings

- ❖ For instance, in about 185 A.D., just two generations removed from the Apostles, Saint Irenaeus of Lyons wrote, “Mary alone cooperated with the pre-arranged plan. ... The knot of Eve’s disobedience was loosed by the obedience of Mary.”  
*Against Heresies* 3:21:7, 3:22:4
- ❖ Irenaeus was the student of Saint Polycarp, a disciple of the Apostle John.



# The Wedding Feast

- ❖ At the Wedding Feast of Cana Mary intercedes for the young couple, going to Jesus on their behalf to tell Him the wine has run out.
- ❖ He replies to her, “*O woman*, what have you to do with me? My hour has not yet come.”  
John 2:4
- ❖ Mary tells the servants, “Do whatever he tells you” John 2:5—her last spoken words in Scripture.
- ❖ At her request, Jesus performs the first miracle of His public ministry, changing water into wine.



## At the Cross

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- ❖ Jesus calls Mary “Woman” again from the Cross, saying, “*Woman*, behold, your son!” meaning the disciple John standing beside her. John 19:26
- ❖ And to John, He says, “Behold, your mother!” John 19:27
- ❖ Jesus speaks to Mary first, asking her to care for the disciple, who represents all of us.
- ❖ Here, Mary becomes the spiritual Mother of all of Christ’s followers, “the mother of all living.” Gen. 3:20
- ❖ A spiritual mother cares for her children primarily through prayer.



## In Heaven

- ❖ In *Revelation* 12:1 the Mother of the Redeemer is described as “a *woman* clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet,” wearing “a crown of twelve stars.”
- ❖ And “the rest of her offspring” are described as “those who keep the commandments and bear testimony to Jesus.”  
Rev. 12:17
- ❖ Mary continues to intercede for her children, praying for us from Heaven.



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