

Lesson 20: The Annunciation

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WWBbB8vcx98&list=PLD0uUumjor1q>

When Mary became a young woman, God sent an Angel to her with a very important message. The Angel Gabriel was sent by God to Nazareth, a city in the country called Galilee where Mary had lived with her parents as a young child. Later, when her parents were very old, she was engaged to an older man named Joseph who promised to take care of her. The angel had a message for her from God. The angel greeted her and said: "Rejoice, O favored one. The Lord is with you! Blessed are you among women!"

Mary was surprised and didn't know what kind of greeting this was. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary. God is pleased with you and will bless you with a son. You will call him 'Jesus.' Mary didn't know what to say. Mary and Joseph were not yet married, so she asked: "How can I have a child, for I have no husband?" But the angel said to her: "God is sending His Holy Spirit to you, and the power of God will come to you. You will give birth to a child that will be called holy, for He is the Son of God. Mary asked the angel, "How can this be?" And the angel said to her: "This will happen because nothing is impossible with God." Mary answered and said: "I am the handmaid (servant) of the Lord. Let this be done to me according to your word," and the angel went away.

The Feast of the Annunciation is celebrated on March 25, nine months before Christmas and celebrates the day the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and asked her to be the Mother of Jesus.

Mary was an ordinary girl from a simple town. Yet, God chose her from all time, and set her apart to be the mother of His Son.

She was preserved from the stain of original sin from the very moment of her conception. This is the doctrine of The Immaculate Conception. Mary was never without grace but she was still human. She is not some far off woman who is not acquainted with what it is like to be human. Mary understands, loves, and cares for each one of us in a very special way. She is truly the best of mothers.

There is so much we can learn from Mary through the Annunciation. Through her yes, Mary teaches us what our response to God should be. Being Full of Grace did not diminish Mary's ability to say no. She could have said no to the angel but she freely chose to say yes. Mary is known as "the New Eve," because she chose to say yes, while Eve turned away from God's plan.

