

# THE ANNUNCIATION



**Y**ou might think it's Christmas in March when we celebrate the Solemnity of the Annunciation.

We hear the story of the Archangel Gabriel greeting Mary and announcing that she has been chosen to give birth to the messiah.

In the Annunciation we celebrate the moment of Mary's *fiat* ("yes") to the invitation to be the Mother of God. The title "Mother of God" has a long history in the Church. The early Christians bestowed it upon Mary in recognition that

Jesus really is who he said he was: the only begotten Son of God. This was a source of controversy: some teachers

100% God, as we still affirm in the words they gave us: "God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God..."

"IN THE SIXTH MONTH THE ANGEL GABRIEL WAS SENT FROM GOD TO A CITY OF GALILEE NAMED NAZARETH, TO A VIRGIN BETROTHED TO A MAN WHOSE NAME WAS JOSEPH, OF THE HOUSE OF DAVID; AND THE VIRGIN'S NAME WAS MARY."

:: Luke 1:26-27

Today there are still people who want to say that Jesus was just a good moral teacher or an especially insightful guru. We believe that his divinity is attested to by his miracles (much greater than any mere teacher!) and the witness of the Apostles who

continued to proclaim the Gospel despite persecution from the authorities and powers of the time.

In order to become the *Theotokos* (God-bearer), Mary was given a singular grace and

believed that Jesus wasn't really God in the same way as God the Father. When the bishops came together to decide these questions, however, they affirmed that Jesus is 100% human and



Watch the video:

[youtu.be/f50XMu7yySE](https://youtu.be/f50XMu7yySE)

preserved from the stain of Original Sin. This is why the archangel declares her “full of grace” in his greeting. This grace comes from Jesus’ salvific work on the Cross and was given to Mary even before it happened, for God is not constrained by time.

For this reason we claim Mary as the highest honor of the human race, the greatest of the saints, and the Mother of the Church.

So make March 25 a little Christmas! It is, after all, a solemnity and one of our greatest celebrations.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!



“GOD SENT FORTH HIS SON,’ BUT TO PREPARE A BODY FOR HIM, HE WANTED THE FREE COOPERATION OF A CREATURE. FOR THIS, FROM ALL ETERNITY GOD CHOSE FOR THE MOTHER OF HIS SON A DAUGHTER OF ISRAEL, A YOUNG JEWISH WOMAN OF NAZARETH IN GALILEE.”

:: *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 488

### Family Discussion Questions

1. How does your life witness to your belief that Jesus Christ really is God? How has your family put their belief in Jesus before other competing priorities and agendas around you?
2. How is God calling your family to bring his mercy and grace into the world? How can your “yes” to this invitation imitate Mary’s fiat?

### Family Challenge

Find ways to give small gifts of service and love to one another this week in honor of the Annunciation. On March 25th, make and enjoy a special meal, then pray the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary together as a family.

### Additional Videos

- Why Did God Become a Human Being?: [youtu.be/r3J5cKve9Qo](https://youtu.be/r3J5cKve9Qo)
- The Icon of the Annunciation: [youtu.be/WIDNxjgSlbQ](https://youtu.be/WIDNxjgSlbQ)

### Other Resources

- [\*A Book of Marian Prayers: A Compilation of Marian Devotions from the 2nd to the 21st Century\*](#) (Loyola Press, 2011)
- [\*Joy to the World: How Christ's Coming Changed Everything \(And Still Does\)\*](#) by Scott Hahn (Image, 2014)



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The ministries of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana are supported by generous contributions to the Catholic Ministries Appeal.