



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! One of the central figures of the Advent Season is the Blessed Mother, full of life, ready to give birth to Her Son and Savior, Jesus Our Lord! In this second week of Advent, the Church remembers Mary's own conception in her mother's womb: A conception that we call the Immaculate Conception. There is a rich and deep history to this important teaching which we profess to this day. Consider the following:

1) **Two key foundations in Scripture:** Genesis 3:15 and Luke 1: 28.

In Genesis 3:15, God states that there is to be an enmity between the "woman" and the serpent, and this enmity is shared between her seed and its seed. Her seed is the messiah, who stands in opposition to the seed of the serpent. The mother of the messiah is said to share the same enmity—total opposition—with Satan.

If Mary, "the woman," had any sin, then she would not be in complete opposition to the devil. Some argue that the "woman" refers to Eve, but this can not be the complete meaning of the text, as Eve is always associated with her collaboration with the serpent, not her opposition to him. Only Mary, the new Eve, fits the description of the woman in Genesis 3:15.

An implicit reference can also be found in the angel's greeting to Mary in Luke 1:28: "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you." The phrase "full of grace" is a translation of the Greek word *kecharitomene*. This word represents the proper name of the person being addressed by the angel, and it therefore expresses a characteristic quality of Mary. *Kecharitomene* is a perfect passive participle of *charitoo*, meaning "to fill or endow with grace." Since this term is in the perfect tense, it indicates a perfection of grace that is both intensive and extensive.

This means that the grace Mary enjoyed was not a result of the angel's visit, and was not only as "full" or strong or complete as possible at any given time, but it extended over the whole of her life, from conception onward. She was in a state of sanctifying grace from the first moment of her existence to have been called "full of grace."

2) **Confirmations from heaven:** In 1830, St. Catherine Laboure in Paris, France received several apparitions of the Blessed Mother who made known to her the design for a Medal of the Immaculate Conception. The Medal known now as the Miraculous Medal reads "O Mary, conceived without sin." Then in 1858, the Blessed Mother again revealed herself as the "Immaculate Conception" to St. Bernadette, an illiterate girl, in Lourdes France.

As we enter this Second Week of Advent and draw nearer to the Birth of Jesus, let us draw near to the one who was closest to Him, His Mother. Join the millions of believers this week who have honored her Immaculate Conception! Peace, Fr. Rogers

*Celebrating
the Joyful
Scenes of
Christmas*



**THE JOYFUL SCENES OF CHRISTMAS
PARISH ROSARY & CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2022 AT 4:00 PM**

Join us in Church next Sunday, December 11 to pray the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary as our parish children represent each of these mysteries in the five joyful scenes. Afterwards, all are welcome outside in the Parish Courtyard for our Christmas Tree Blessing & Lighting followed by Christmas caroling, hot chocolate and other delicious treats sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Come and share the joy of this Advent Season with friends and family! We hope to see you there. 236



Tuesday, December 13 at 7:00PM-St. Maximilian Kolbe
Wednesday, December 14 at 7:00PM-Sacred Heart
Tuesday, December 20 at 7:00PM-St. Patrick
Wednesday, December 21 at 11:00AM & 7:00PM-St. Cornelius



**The Immaculate
Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
Mass Schedule**

Wednesday, December 7
Vigil Mass at 5:00PM
Thursday, December 8
7:30AM, 9:00AM, 12:00PM, 7:00PM