

Pope Francis Angelus 8 December 2024

Today, on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the Gospel tells us about one of the most important, most beautiful moments in the history of humanity: the Annunciation (cf. *Lk 26-38*), when Mary's "yes" to the Archangel Gabriel permitted the Incarnation of the Son of God, Jesus. It is a scene that inspires the greatest wonder and emotion because God, the Most High, the Omnipotent, by means of the Angel converses with a young girl from Nazareth, asking for her collaboration for His plan of salvation. If today you find a little time, look in the Gospel of Saint Luke and read this scene. I assure you that it will do you good, a lot of good!

As in the scene of the creation of Adam, painted by Michelangelo in the Sistine Chapel, where the finger of the heavenly Father touches the finger of the man; thus here too the human and the divine encounter each other, at the beginning of our Redemption, they meet with a wonderful delicacy, in the blessed instant in which the Virgin Mary utters her "yes". She is a woman in a small peripheral village and is called for ever to the centre of history: on her answer depends the fate of humanity, which can smile and hope again, because its destiny has been placed in good hands. She will be the one to bear the Saviour, conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Mary, then, as the Archangel Gabriel greets her, is "full of grace" (*Lk 1:28*), the Immaculate, entirely at the service of the Word of God, always with the Lord, to whom she entrusts herself completely. In her, there is nothing that resists His will, nothing that opposes truth and charity. Here is her blessedness, which all generations will sing. Let us also rejoice because the Immaculate has given us Jesus, who is our salvation!

Brothers and sisters, contemplating this mystery we can ask ourselves: in our time, ravaged by wars and bent on the effort to possess and dominate, where do I place my hope? In strength, in money, in powerful friends? Do I place my hope there? Or in God's infinite mercy? And in the face of the shiny false models circulating in the media and on the internet, where do I look for my happiness? Where is the treasure of my heart? Is it in the fact that God loves me freely, that His love always goes before me, and is ready to forgive me when I return repentant to Him? In that filial hope in God's love? Or am I deluding myself in trying to assert my ego and my will at all costs?

Brothers and sisters, as the opening of the Holy Door of the Jubilee approaches, let us open the doors of the heart and the mind to the Lord. He is born of Mary Immaculate: let us implore the intercession of Mary. And I will give you a piece of advice. Today it is a good day to decide to make a good Confession. If you cannot go today, this week, until next Sunday, open your heart and the Lord will forgive everything, everything, everything. And so, in Mary's hands, we will be happy.

Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Luis Orlando González
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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



HOLY MASS

Saturday: 05:30 pm English, Church.

Sunday: 09:00 am English, Church.
10:30 am Creole, Church.
12:30 pm Spanish, Church.

Weekdays: 05:30 pm English, Upper Room, St. Maria Goretti.

Fridays: 04:00 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary.

05:30 pm Upper Room
St. Maria Goretti.

SCHEDULE OF SACRAMENTS

Baptisms: Contact one of the priests in person.

1st Confession: 13 June, 2025.
1st Communions: 22 June, 2025.

Confirmations: November 10, 2024.

Marriage: Call the parish office for preparation before setting a fixed date.

Anointing of the Sick: Upon request.

Confessions: Everyday before Mass or by appointment.

Today's Gospel continues the call to repentance of John the Baptist. This time he gives concrete examples of what repentance means. Basically it comes down to how you treat other people. You may think "Well, I treat others as I treat myself." Personally, I doubt that's true! I am sure that at times you can be quite mean and even rude to others, even judging them or speaking badly about them or gossiping. It's all hidden under a nice façade. St. John came to denounce hypocrisy, just as Jesus will do. If you weren't guilty of this you would at least tell people the truth. I know 2 young people who went to a retreat and who did not like each other. They expressed this at the very beginning to each other, out in the open and by the end of that weekend they were the best buddies. "The truth will set you free." So John goes before Jesus proclaiming the "Good News". This seems strange because all that John is doing is calling you and everyone to recognize their own sins and not those of other people. So, how is seeing your own sinful reality a "Good News"? Well for starters, it humbles you to see your inadequacies and sins and this is always a good thing. Secondly, I hope that you will see that the sun still gets up in the morning and that the Lord continues to bless you in spite of your sinfulness. This means that the Lord loves the sinner and wants the best for him or her. Hopefully, also it will help you to have some mercy on the other sinners around you and so you will judge them less harshly, if at all. You judge because you don't want to face your own sins. So John's call to repentance is good news. Finally, today is rejoice Sunday. Why are we to rejoice? Because of the never-ending mercy of God upon us sinners. May all of us rejoice in this day.

Fr. Paul



HOLY HOUR FRIDAYS 4:00 pm—5:00 pm.

Holy Rosary in three languages, readings reflection, and meditation on the Holy Eucharist. Upper Room St. Maria Goretti.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

ADVENT

Morning Prayer

Monday to Friday: 6:20 am
St. Joseph's room

Penitential: Tuesday, December 17 at 7:00 pm Church.

Christmas concert: Wednesday, December 18 at 7:00 pm Church.

Novena of Nativity: Dec 19—Dec 23. 7:00 pm

CHRISTMAS

Tuesday, Dec. 24:
Christmas Eve 05:30 pm.
English
Midnight 12:00 am multilingual

Wednesday Dec. 25:
Christmas day: 09:00 am
English
11:00 am Multilingual

Tuesday, Dec 31st:
New Year's Eve: 05:30 pm.

Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025:
Mother of God: 09:00 am
English
11:00 am Multilingual

Parish Events Dec. 15-22

Holy Mass: 09:00 am, 10:30 am and 12:30 pm.
04:00pm Coeur de Marie Children's group.
05:00pm Fraternite, Red Room.
05:00pm Creole Youth Choir practice.
05:30pm Sacre Coeur de Jesus, P. Hall.
06:00pm Choeur D'hommes 1st and 3rd Sunday at church.

Monday

08:00 am School Mass—Church
05:30 pm SMG, Upper Room
07:00 pm Eucharist NCW

Tuesday

05:30pm Daily Mass, SMG, Upper Room
07:00pm First English St. Mary Chapel
07:00pm Second English SMG
07:00pm Spanish St. Joseph room

Wednesday

05:30 pm Daily Mass SMG, Upper Room
07:00 pm 3rd English SMG, Upstairs
07:00 pm 4th English St. Joseph Room
07:00 pm 5th English St. Mary's
07:00 pm Creole Bl. Sac. Chapel

Thursday

05:30 pm Daily Mass SMG, Upper Room

Friday

04:00 pm Adoration, SMG upstairs
05:30 pm Daily Mass, SMG upstairs

Saturday

05:30 pm Mass in Church
07:00 pm Eucharist NCW



School Notes

Holy Family Academy
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We continue to look for donations and sponsors to support our **Scholarship Program** and help the school with necessary supplies.

Your sponsorship payment can be done through direct deposit or bank transfer or by donating any of the items below.

- Projectors and projector screens
- Projector stands
- Art Supplies
- Printing Paper
- Sport supplies
- Asthma Inhalers & AED

Click on our [Wish List](#) or scan the code to see more!

