

Sunday Newsletter

J.M.J.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

12-8-2024

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Part 1: Epistle & Gospel

LESSON (Prov. viii. 22—35.) The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his ways, before he made anything, from the beginning. I was set up from eternity, and of old, before the earth was made. The depths were not as yet, and I was already conceived: neither had the fountains of waters as yet sprung out: the mountains with their huge bulk had not as yet been established: before the hills I was brought forth: he had not yet made the earth, nor the rivers, nor the poles of the world. When he prepared the heavens, I was present; when, with a certain law and compass, he enclosed the depths; when he established the sky above, and poised the fountains of waters; when he compassed the sea with its bounds, and set a law to the waters, that they should not pass their limits; when he balanced the foundations of the earth. I was with him, forming all things, and was delighted every day, playing before him at all times, playing in the world; and my delights were to be with the children of men. Now, therefore, ye children, hear me: Blessed are they that keep my ways. Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not. Blessed is the man that heareth me, and that watcheth daily at my gates, and waiteth at the posts of my door. He that shall find me shall find life, and shall have salvation from the Lord.

GOSPEL. (Luke i. 26—28.) At that time, The angel Gabriel was sent from God into a city of Galilee, called Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And the Angel being come in, said unto her: Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou amongst women.

Part 2: Weekly Ordo & Mass Schedule

This upcoming week's TLM Mass Schedule & Parish Ordo

Date & Time	Day of Week	Mass	Color	Gloria/Credo	Preface	Commemoration(s)	Notes
12/8/2024 Noon	Sunday	Immaculate Conception	White	g,c	BVM	Sunday	
12/9/2024 8am	Monday	Advent FERIA (Mass of the 2nd Sunday of Advent)	Violet		Common		omit Alleluia
12/10/2024 8am	Tuesday	Advent FERIA (Mass of the 2nd Sunday of Advent)	Violet		Common	St. Melchiades	omit Alleluia
12/11/2024 8am	Wednesday	St. Damasus	White	g	Common	Feria	
12/12/2024 8am	Thursday	Our Lady of Guadalupe	White	g	BVM	Feria	
12/13/2024 8am	Friday	St. Lucy	Red	g	Common	Feria	
12/14/2024 6am	Saturday	Rorate Caeli Mass	Violet		BVM	Feria	
12/15/2024 Noon	Sunday	3rd Sunday of Advent	Rose	c	Trinity		

Part 3: Announcements

- More Information on Notes & Announcements
 - Please visit embercatholic.com to read this Sunday's Newsletter, which contains the following announcements, sermon notes, links, and Sunday Catechesis Home Lessons.
- Pray for Baby Hebert who will be baptized today [12/8/2024]
- Wednesdays in Advent
 - 5:45pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
 - 6:00pm Solemn Vespers with Advent Homily
 - 6:30pm Confessions Begin with Silent Eucharistic Adoration
 - 7:20pm Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and Reposition
 - 8:00pm Confessions End
- Seminarian Connor Williams:
 - Please Send Letters & Alms to [ICK](#) Seminarian Connor Williams:
 - 517 Elm St. Rockford IL, 61102
 - givesendgo.com/GD8EE (for online donations/messages)
- Reparation Needed For
 - The Movie "Conclave"
 - ["Mary" on Netflix](#)

Part 4: Sermon

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. “And the Angel being come in, said unto her: Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou amongst women.” - These words are taken from today’s Gospel. +

2. THE FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT OF MARY

- 2.1. In Genesis Chapter Three: After the Fall, the devil is condemned, and the Gospel is first announced.
- 2.2. “I will put enmities between thee and the woman, and thy seed and her seed: **she** shall crush thy head, and thou shalt lie in wait for her heel” (Genesis 3:15).
 - 2.2.1. Read the Douay Rheims, Read the Vulgate: SHE SHALL CRUSH THY HEAD
- 2.3. The announcement of Mary & Christ to come coincides with the announcement of the future defeat of the devil.

3. OTHER WARRIOR TYPES OF MARY

- 3.1. All throughout the Old Testament God uses certain women to save Israel from its Israel enemies.
- 3.2. These women use their prudence, their beauty, their charity, their obedience, and their fierceness to defeat the wicked.
- 3.3. These are just a few examples:
 - 3.3.1. Judith beheading Holofernes (phonetic: haa ·luh fur neez) [Judith 13]
 - 3.3.2. Queen Esther saving her people from genocide using her modesty and charm [Esther 7-9]
 - 3.3.3. Jael cracking open Sisera’s skull with a tent peg and a mallet [Judges 4:21]
- 3.4. All these women foreshadow Our Lady, who has the fulness of prudence, beauty, and fierceness, who has the fulness of charity and obedience.
- 3.5. The moment the BVM was conceived in the womb of St. Anne, the devil’s head was crushed.
- 3.6. The Immaculate Conception ushers in the end of the demonic deception.

4. THE DOGMA

- 4.1. Today is the 170th anniversary of the papal proclamation of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception.
- 4.2. In the Constitution [Ineffabilis Deus](#) of 8 December 1854, Pius IX pronounced and defined that the Blessed Virgin Mary **"in the first instance of her conception, by a singular privilege and grace granted by God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the human race, was preserved exempt from all stain of original sin."**
 - 4.2.1. [The Dogma of the Immaculate Conception] is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore to be believed firmly and constantly by all the faithful. Hence, if anyone shall dare — which God forbid! — to think otherwise than as has been defined by us, let him know and understand that he is condemned by his own judgment; that he has suffered shipwreck in the faith; that he has separated from the unity of the Church."
- 4.3. This pronouncement was sandwiched by two confirmations from Heaven.
 - 4.3.1. 1830 [24 years before]
 - 4.3.1.1. **Miraculous Medal** given by The Blessed Virgin to Catherine Laboure.
 - 4.3.1.2. "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee"
 - 4.3.2. 1858 [4 years after]
 - 4.3.2.1. Our Lady appeared to Saint Bernadette Soubirous at **Lourdes**.
 - 4.3.2.2. "I am the Immaculate Conception."

5. [ADAM & EVE](#)

- 5.1. To better understand this dogma, it would be good to reflect on Adam & Eve.
 - 5.1.1. Scripture makes it clear Jesus is the New Adam:
 - 5.1.1.1. "Adam, who is a figure of him who was to come" Romans 5:14
 - 5.1.1.2. "As in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive." 1 Cor 15:22
 - 5.1.2. Tradition makes it clear Mary is the New Eve.

5.1.2.1. 1st Century

5.1.2.1.1. St. John

5.1.2.1.1.1. Implies Mary is the New Eve in his Gospel and in the Book of the Apocalypse.

5.1.2.1.2. St. Luke

5.1.2.1.2.1. St. Luke reveals in his Gospel that Mary is "more blessed than all women." (see Luke 1:42).

5.1.2.2. 2nd Century

5.1.2.2.1. St. Justin Martyr

5.1.2.2.2. St. Irenaeus of Lyon

5.1.2.3. 3rd Century

5.1.2.3.1. St. Gregory the Wonder-worker

5.1.2.3.2. Tertullian

5.1.2.4. 4th Century

5.1.2.4.1. St. Ephrem

5.1.2.4.2. St. Jerome

5.2. Scripture & Tradition make clear that Adam & Eve are both types.

5.2.1. A type is an Old Testament person or event that foreshadows a New Testament person or event.

5.2.2. Noah's Flood is a type of Baptism

5.2.3. Manna is a type of the Eucharist

5.2.4. Adam is a type of Jesus.

5.2.5. Eve is a type Mary

5.2.6. Just as last week, we spoke about how Moses is a type of Christ.

5.3. What is foreshadowed by a type is much greater than the type itself.

5.3.1. Baptism is infinitely greater than Noah's flood.

5.3.2. The Eucharist is infinitely greater than manna.

5.3.3. Jesus is infinitely greater than Adam.

5.3.4. Mary is much greater than Eve.

5.4. How were Adam and Eve created?

5.4.1. Old Adam came from unstained Earth (before the fall).

5.4.2. New Adam came from the unstained flesh of Mary.

5.4.2.1. Otherwise, Adam would be given a greater privilege than Adam.

5.4.3. Old Adam & Old Eve created pure, spotless, in grace.

5.4.3.1. If the type points to something greater than the type, it is necessary that the New Eve is also made in grace.

5.4.3.2. If Eve was created without the shadow of sin, then the New Eve was also to be created without the shadow of sin.

5.4.3.3. Thus, the BVM tells St. Bernadette, “I am the Immaculate Conception.”

6. BEAUTY OF MARY

6.1. Original Beauty of Adam and Eve

6.1.1. They were radiant with beauty before the fall.

6.1.2. The soul is the form of the body. A perfect soul would radiate through the body.

6.2. BVM is the only mere human with a nature as God has originally intended.

6.2.1. Masterpiece

6.2.2. Never Fallen, Never Repaired

6.2.2.1. Just as Notre Dame Church Building in Paris has to be rebuilt, so too Adam had to be repaired.

6.2.3. Breath-Taking Beauty of Mary. Never Fallen, Never Repaired.

6.3. Pope Pius IX: “[Mary is] immaculate in every respect; innocent, and verily most innocent; spotless, and entirely spotless; holy and removed from every stain of sin; all pure, all stainless, the very model of purity and innocence; more beautiful than beauty, more lovely than loveliness; more holy than holiness...more holy than the Cherubim and Seraphim. To praise her all the tongues of heaven and earth do not suffice” [Pope Pius IX, Constitution [Ineffabilis Deus](#)].

6.4. Dante:

The sound of that sweet flower's name,
the one I pray to night and day,

drew all my soul into the vision of that flame of flames;
and when both of my eyes revealed to me
how rich and glorious was that living star
that reigns in Heaven, as it had reigned on Earth,
down from Heaven's height there came
a flaming torch shaped in a ring, as if it were a crown,
that spun around the glory of her light. (Paradiso 23.88–96)

7. CONFIDENCE IN MARY, OUR MOTHER

7.1. Our Lady is owed our praise.

7.2. She is also owed our confidence. Go to BVM with everything.

7.3. Pope Pius IX:

7.3.1. “Let all the children of the Catholic Church, who are so very dear to us, hear these words of ours. With a still more ardent zeal for piety, religion and love, let them continue to venerate, invoke and pray to the most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, conceived without original sin. Let them fly with utter confidence to this most sweet Mother of mercy and grace in all dangers, difficulties, needs, doubts and fears. Under her guidance, under her patronage, under her kindness and protection, nothing is to be feared; nothing is hopeless. Because, while bearing toward us a truly motherly affection and having in her care the work of our salvation, she is solicitous about the whole human race. And since she has been appointed by God to be the Queen of heaven and earth, and is exalted above all the choirs of angels and saints, and even stands at the right hand of her only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, she presents our petitions in a most efficacious manner. What she asks, she obtains. Her pleas can never be unheard.- Given at St. Peter's in Rome, the eighth day of December 1854, in the eighth year of our pontificate” [Constitution [*Ineffabilis Deus*](#)].

Part 5: Weekly Catechism Home Lessons**Excerpts from “The Life of Christ” by Fulton Sheen**

Excerpts from Chapter Two

EARLY LIFE OF CHRIST

THE VISITATION

Mary was given a sign that she would conceive by the Holy Ghost. Her elderly cousin Elizabeth had already conceived a son in her old age, and was now in her sixth month. Mary, now bearing the Divine Secret within her, journeyed several days from Nazareth to the city of Hebron, which, according to tradition, rested over the ashes of the founders of the people of God—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Elizabeth, in some mysterious way, knew that Mary was bearing within herself the Messiah. She asked:

How have I deserved to be Thus visited by the Mother of My Lord? LUKE 1:43

This salutation came from the mother of the herald to the mother of the King Whose path the herald was destined to prepare. John the Baptist, still cloistered in his mother’s womb, on his mother’s testimony leaped with joy at the mother who brought the Christ to her home. Mary’s response to this salutation is called the Magnificat, a song of joy celebrating what God had done for her. She looked back over history, back to Abraham; she saw the activity of God preparing for this moment from generation to generation, she looked also into an indefinite future when all peoples and all generations would call her “Blessed.” Israel’s Messiah was on His way, and God was about to manifest Himself on earth and in the flesh. She even prophesied the qualities of the Son Who was to be born of her as full of justice and mercy. Her poem ends by acclaiming the revolution He will inaugurate with the unseating of the mighty and the exaltation of the humble.

THE PREHISTORY OF CHRIST

The Lord to be born of Mary is the only Person in the world Who ever had a prehistory; a prehistory to be studied not in the primeval slime and jungles, but in the bosom of the Eternal Father. Though He appeared as the Cave Man in Bethlehem, since He was born in a stable hewn out of rock, His beginning in time as man was without beginning as God in the agelessness of eternity. Only progressively did He reveal His Divinity; and this was not because He grew in the consciousness of Divinity; it was due rather to His intent to be slow in revealing the purpose of His coming. St. John at the beginning of his Gospel relates His prehistory as the Son of God:

In the beginning was the Word, And the Word was with God; And the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.

All things were made by Him, And without Him was made nothing that was made. JOHN 1:1-3

“In the beginning was the Word.” Whatever there is in the world, is made according to the thought of God, for all things postulate thought. Every bird, every flower, every tree was made according to an idea existing in the Divine Mind. Greek philosophers held that thought was abstract. Now, the Thought or Word of God is revealed as Personal. Wisdom is vested in Personality. Prior to His earthly existence, Jesus Christ is eternally God, the Wisdom, the Thought of the Father. In His earthly existence, He is that Thought or Word of God speaking to men. The words of men pass away when they have been conceived and uttered, but the Word of God is eternally uttered and can never cease from utterance. By His Word, the Eternal Father presses all that He understands, all that He knows. As the mind holds converse with itself by its own thought, and sees and knows the world by means of this thought, so does the Father see Himself, as in a mirror, in the Person of His Word. Finite intelligence needs

many words in order to express ideas; but God speaks once and for all within Himself—one single Word which reaches the abyss of all things that are known and can be known. In that Word of God are hidden all the treasures of wisdom, all the secrets of sciences, all the designs of the arts, all the knowledge of mankind. But this knowledge, compared to the Word, is only the feeblest broken syllable. In the agelessness of eternity, the Word was with God. But there was a moment in time when He had not come forth from the Godhead, as there is a moment when a thought in the mind of man is not yet uttered. As the sun is never without its beam, so the Father is never without His Son; and as the thinker is not without a thought, so in an infinite degree, the Divine Mind is never without His Word. God did not spend the everlasting ages in sublime solitary activity. He had a Word with Him equal to Himself.

All things were made by Him, And without Him was made nothing that was made. In Him was life and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; And the darkness did not comprehend it. JOHN 1:3–5

Everything in space and time exists because of the creative Power of God. Matter is not eternal; the universe has an intelligent Personality back of it, an Architect, a Builder, and a Sustainer. Creation is the work of God. The sculptor works on marble, the painter on canvas, the machinist on matter, but none of them can create. They bring existing things into new combinations, but nothing else. Creation belongs to God alone. God writes His name on the soul of every man. Reason and conscience are the God within us in the natural order. The Fathers of the early Church were wont to speak of the wisdom of Plato and Aristotle as the unconscious Christ within us. Men are like so many books issuing from the Divine press, and if nothing else be written on them, at least the name of the Author is indissolubly engraved on the title page. God is like the watermark on paper, which may be written over without ever being obscured.