

December 19: Mary, Mother of Jesus



Mary is called the Blessed Mother because she is the mother of Jesus, and we call Mary *our mother* too. She is also known as the Blessed Virgin Mary. When she was a young teenager the Angel Gabriel appeared to her and told her she would be the mother of Jesus, the Messiah foretold by the prophets. Mary agreed and said, "Behold, the servant of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word." Jesus is called the

Messiah and our Savior because he is the only begotten son of God who became a man to save us from our sins and to reopen the gates of Heaven, which were closed by the first (original) sin of Adam and Eve. Mary is also called the New Eve and her son, Jesus, the New Adam. Whereas the first Adam and Eve lost Heaven for all of us, the New Adam who was born through the New Eve have brought salvation for all who are saved from their sins. Mary is considered to be the highest saint in Heaven and the Queen of Heaven. She was conceived without the stain of original sin on her soul by a special grace from God. Mary loves us as a mother and prays for us to God.



"The Annunciation"
Philippe de Champaigne, 1644



Luke 1:26-35, 38-60. ²⁶ Now in the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man whose name was Joseph, of David's house. The virgin's name was Mary.

²⁸ Having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, you highly favored one! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women!"

²⁹ But when she saw him, she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered what kind of salutation this might be.

³⁰ The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

³¹ Behold, you will conceive in your womb, and give birth to a son, and will call his name 'Jesus.'

³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father, David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever. There will be no end to his Kingdom.”

³⁴ Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, seeing I am a virgin?”

³⁵ The angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore also the holy one who is born from you will be called the Son of God....”

³⁸ Mary said, “Behold, the servant of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word.” The angel departed from her.

³⁹ Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Judah, ⁴⁰ and entered into the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth.

⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

⁴² She called out with a loud voice, and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!

⁴³ Why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the voice of your greeting came into my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy!

⁴⁵ Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of the things which have been spoken to her from the Lord!”

⁴⁶ Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord.

⁴⁷ My spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has looked at the humble state of his servant. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed.

⁴⁹ For he who is mighty has done great things for me. Holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy is for generations of generations on those who fear him.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm. He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

⁵² He has put down princes from their thrones. And has exalted the lowly.

⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things. He has sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has given help to Israel, his servant, that he might remember mercy,

⁵⁵ As he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his offspring forever.”

⁵⁶ Mary stayed with her about three months, and then returned to her house.

⁵⁷ Now the time that Elizabeth should give birth was fulfilled, and she gave birth to a son. ⁵⁸ Her neighbors and her relatives heard that the Lord had magnified his mercy towards her, and they rejoiced with her.

⁵⁹ On the eighth day, they came to circumcise the child; and they would have called him Zacharias, after the name of the father. ⁶⁰ His mother answered, “Not so; but he will be called John.”



“The Visitation”

Domenico Ghirlandaio, 1491