

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

December 8

Holy Day of Obligation for the Universal Church

Patroness Feast Day for the Church of the United States of America



We celebrate Mary’s redemption from sin at the moment of her conception. Her salvation was achieved through the Death and Resurrection of Jesus. How can this be since she was obviously already middle aged when Jesus died on the Cross? The answer to this question lies in the Truth about Jesus as the eternal Son of the Father. Jesus, as the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, has existed forever – He has no beginning and no ending. His earthly body had a beginning in the womb of Mary and He died a physical death on the Cross. But, because He is God, He exists outside of time and He is the Redeemer and so chose to preserve His Mother from sin at her conception.

You can read more in the [Catechism of the Catholic Church, 490-493](#).

The key to this dogma of Mary’s salvation from Original Sin and subsequently all personal sin is the fact that she was absolutely free to say “yes” to God at the moment of the Annunciation. What we believe about Mary always points to God and His infinite Goodness and Mercy and Love. She was saved from sin in order to make her choice to follow God’s will in her life perfectly and without hesitation. She is our model that we look to help and guide us as we also strive to live God’s will perfectly in our lives.

The Angelus is a beautiful prayer that puts this all together. Using key Scripture verses (alternating with praying the Hail Mary), it illuminates these truths about Mary and Jesus. Pray it and ask the Lord truly to do in your life what He wants, what He wills, what He knows is the perfection of your being.



Angelus (Traditionally prayed at 6AM, noon, and 6PM) It can be prayed individually or as a call and response:

V. The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

R. *And she was conceived of the Holy Spirit. (Luke 1:28)*

(Hail Mary, full of grace...)

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R. *Be it done to me according to your word. (Luke 1:38)*

(Hail Mary, full of grace...)

V. And the Word was made flesh.

R. *And dwelt among us. (John 1:14)*

(Hail Mary, full of grace...)

V. Pray for us, holy Mother of God,

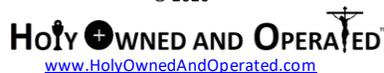
R. *that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*

V. Let us pray:

R. Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ, your Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by his passion and cross be brought to the glory of his resurrection, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

[A printable prayer card can be accessed here.](#)

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