

Advent and the Visitation

The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, as recorded in Luke 1:39-56, was the event when Mary traveled in haste from Nazareth to a town of Judah to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who was six months pregnant with John the Baptist. At the time of her visitation to Elizabeth, Mary herself was pregnant because she conceived Jesus, the Son of God, in her womb after she consented to bear Him according to God's will.

Some commentaries say that Mary visited Elizabeth out of her great charity towards others, and in this case, to help out Elizabeth during her pregnancy in her old age. That is entirely true, but another reason why Mary visited Elizabeth in haste, was so that John the Baptist can be prepared for his role some thirty years later as the forerunner of Jesus, the Messiah.

According to Catholic tradition, John the Baptist, although conceived with original sin, was born without original sin. In addition, John the Baptist was sanctified and made free of original sin by Jesus while he was still in his mother's womb, and there lies the mystery of the Visitation: By visiting Elizabeth during her pregnancy, Mary brought Jesus to John the Baptist, so that Jesus Himself can sanctify John, His forerunner, before his birth. At the time of the Visitation, the infant in Elizabeth's womb leaped for joy, thus signifying the moment of his sanctification.

Just as God prepared Mary to be a worthy vessel of His Son through her Immaculate Conception, so also did God prepare John the Baptist to be a worthy forerunner of His Son through his birth without the stain of original sin.



What is the connection between Advent and the Visitation? Advent is a time of preparation for the birth of Christ, and so, as we have seen, the Visitation was a time of preparation for the yet to be born John the Baptist. Just imagine how the one who is to prepare for the way of the Lord was himself prepared by the Lord for his future role in a very special way. We too are being prepared by Christ Himself for His birth – through His word and through His Body and Blood in the Eucharist. The Visitation reminds us that Jesus Himself prepares us for what He wants of us; it gives us the confidence that we will be able to fulfill God's will, if we don't keep on fighting against it.



The candle of the Fourth Sunday of Advent is called the Angel's candle, which symbolizes PEACE. At the birth of Christ the Lord, suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!" (Luke 2:13-14)

At a time when there was a lot of oppression and civil unrest in the Roman province of Judaea, the angels announced the birth of the Messiah to the poor and lowly shepherds. It was a message of peace for those who longed for deliverance from hardship and oppression. But when Christ came, He brought deliverance from a far greater oppression – the bondage of slavery from sin and eternal death.

St. Paul tells the early Christians in Galatia of their new-found freedom in Christ: "When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom those under the law, so that we might receive adoption. As proof that you are children, God sent the spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out, 'Abba, Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God." (Galatians 4:4-7) May the peace of Christ be with you all!

耶穌聖名華人天主堂
THE HOLY NAME of Jesus CHINESE CATHOLIC MISSION
5395 Light Circle NW, Norcross GA 30071 678-691-3261 hnojatl.org
每週公告 Weekly Bulletin
2024 年十二月二十二日 December 22, 2024

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



Attention children and parents: Rehearsal for the Sunday School Christmas Pageant will be today, December 22.

Mass at Midnight on December 24 will begin at 11:30pm. Mass on Christmas Day and Sunday School Christmas Pageant will begin at 10:30am. Mass will be followed by Potluck, Santa Claus, Christmas

Program and raffle.



Attention parents and gift-givers! Please remember to bring your Christmas gifts on Christmas Day and place them under the Christmas tree in the social hall. This way, Santa Claus will have your gifts ready to give away!



Hail Mary, Gentle Woman

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women and blest is the fruit of your womb,
Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
Now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Gentle woman, quiet light, morning star, so strong and bright,
Gentle Mother, peaceful dove, teach us wisdom, teach us love.
You were chosen by the Father, you were chosen for the Son,
You were chosen from all women, and for woman, shining one.

Prayer List: Liu Guifang, Lydia Chen, Lu Shumi, David Wang, Chen Jianxin, Liang Chenjing, Pan Bohao and Xu Taicheng.

Mass Schedule	Confessions	Bible Study
Sundays 10:30 AM (Chinese)	Sundays 9:00-9:30 AM	Wednesdays 10:00 AM (Chinese)
Sundays 2:00 PM (English)	Tuesdays 2:00-3:00 PM	Mondays 6:00 PM (English)
	By Appointment	
Mondays 12:00 PM (English)		Eucharistic Adoration
Tuesdays 12:00 PM (English)	Anointing of the Sick	Sundays 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM
Wednesdays 12:00 PM (Chinese)	First Sundays after 10:30 AM Mass	Tuesdays 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Fridays 12:00 PM (English)		
First Friday 7:00 PM (English)		
First Saturday 10:00 AM (Chinese)		