

March 25, 2020  
Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord  
**LUKE 1:26-38**

**Activity for today:**

- Read Gospel Reflection
- Read about Flannery O'Connor, St. John Paul II and Priestly Formation
- Annunciation Day Food Ideas
- Catholic Recipe: Luscious Coffee Ring
- Children of all ages Four Day worksheets
- Answers for Monday' question: **Do you know the seven signs of Jesus in John's Gospel?** Actually you just needed six since Monday's Gospel reading told of the second sign.

**Gospel Reflection**

*From Bishop Robert Barren ([www.wordonfire.org](http://www.wordonfire.org))*

The Church Fathers were fond of exploring the relationship between Eve, mother of all the living, and the new Eve, Mary the Mother of God. Where Eve grasped and lost, Mary surrendered and received; where Eve said no to the alluring mystery, Mary said yes.

The angel of the Lord—an agent from a realm beyond what can be seen and known—appears to the maid of Nazareth and greets her in what Balthasar describes as the language of heaven: “Hail, full of grace.” The sinful earth is a place of grasping, but the angel salutes her as someone who is ready to accept gifts.

Then he lays out for her the divine plan in which she is to play a signal role: “And now you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High” (Luke 1:32). Standing still within the confines of what she can know, Mary responds, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” What the angel has told her does not conform to her expectations, and she is, understandably enough, puzzled.

Then the messenger says: “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you” (Luke 1:35). In other words: someone much more powerful than you will overwhelm your physical, moral, intellectual, and spiritual capacities, and in the measure that you cooperate with this intervention, you will come to a life you hadn’t imagined.

Finally, he reminds Mary of her cousin Elizabeth’s unlikely pregnancy and adds, “Nothing will be impossible for God” (Luke 1:37).

Søren Kierkegaard, tweaking the noses of the tidy rationalists of his day, said that authentic faith is a “passion for the impossible.” It is a surrender in love to that which the mind (the too-often arrogant determiner of what is and is not possible) cannot see.

When Mary says, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word,” she exhibits such faith and thereby undoes the refusal of Eve. And this *fiat* to the impossible made possible the Incarnation of God.

In accepting the seduction of the alluring Mystery, Mary allowed God’s love to become enfleshed for the transformation of the world. In the Catholic faith, Mary is praised as the mother of the Church, the matrix of all discipleship. What this means is that her *fiat* is the ground and model of every disciple’s response to God’s desire for incarnation.

Meister Eckhart said that all believers become “mothers of Christ,” bearers of the incarnate word, in the measure that they acquiesce to the divine passion to push concretely into creation.

### Information about Flannery O’Connor, St. John Paul II and Priestly Formation

By Fr. Damian Ference on March 25, 2015

<https://www.wordonfire.org/resources/blog/an-incarnational-day-the-annunciation-flannery-oconnor-john-paul-ii-and-priestly-formation/4700/>

### **Annunciation Day Food Ideas:**

From Catholic Culture website (www.catholicculture.org)

Here are some food ideas for the Feast of the Annunciation on March 25, especially if it falls during Lent.

## **DIRECTIONS**

March 25 forecasts the most important and blessed event in Church history. To many of us it is the assurance that, as the seasons follow each other in orderly procession, so Christmas, the birthday of Jesus, is slowly but surely on its way. The year is a great circle of days, and imaginative homemakers throughout the world have done modest but sincere homage to Annunciation Day by serving cakes, coffee rings, or cookies baked in wreath shapes. There is no reason why the wreath form should not be carried out in other foods too. A springtime supper (or luncheon) salad made in a ring mold would be completely appropriate.

March 25, Annunciation Day, sometimes called Lady Day, celebrates the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the day when the Angel Gabriel appeared to Our Lady and told her that she was to be the mother of a son called Jesus, the Savior of the world. (See recipes for Jellied Macaroni Ring and Luscious Coffee Ring.)

Occasionally this feast day occurs during the Lenten season. When it does we might recall that some beautiful words from the Epistle of the Mass on Assumption Day, another feast day dedicated to Mary, call her "exalted like a cedar in Libanus, a cypress tree on Mt. Sion, a palm in Cades, a rose plant in Jericho; a fair olive tree by the water, a sweet smell like cinnamon and aromatic balm, a sweet odor like the best myrrh." What, then, could be more appropriate than spicy cookies, wafting their fragrance through the house as they bake?

*Activity Source: Cook's Blessings, The by Demetria Taylor, Random House, New York, 1965*

### **Baking Activity for the Day:**

#### **Luscious Coffee Ring**

<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/recipes/view.cfm?id=356>

### **Activity Pages for Children of All Ages:**

<file:///C:/Users/Paula/Documents/St%20Pius%20X/Website%20information/four-day-devotion-activity-pages.pdf>

### **Answers from Monday's Question**

1. The Wedding at Cana (John 2:1-12)
2. Cure of the Official's Son (John 4:46-54)
3. Cure on a Sabbath (John 5:1-47)
4. Multiplication of Loaves (John 6:1-14)
5. Walking on Water (John 6:16-24)
6. Cure of a Man Born Blind (John 9:1-41)
7. Raising of Lazarus (John 11:1-44)

<https://www.avemariapress.com/engagingfaith/2010/03/signs-in-gospel-of-john-activity/>