

Marianist Moments



The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord

... the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 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, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

Solemnities

Solemnities are the celebrations of greatest importance. Each Solemnity begins on the prior evening with evening prayer and several of the solemnities have their own Vigil Mass. On these days, both the Gloria and the Creed are recited.

<https://catholicstraightanswers.com/what-is-the-difference-between-a-solemnity-a-feast-and-a-memorial/>

Feasts

Feasts are of second importance in our liturgical calendar and are celebrated on a particular day. These feasts do not have a first vespers or Vigil Mass the prior evening. On these days, the Gloria is recited but not the Creed.

Memorials

Memorials are classified as either obligatory or optional. Memorials commemorate a saint or saints. Obligatory memorials must be observed whereas optional memorials do not have to be observed.

On March 25, we celebrate the **Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord**.

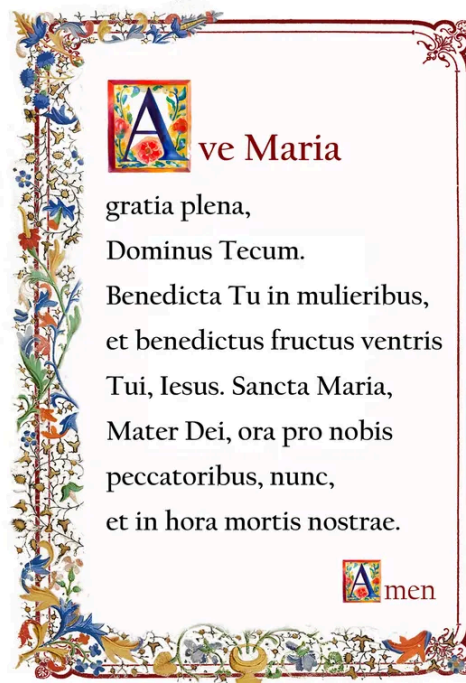
The Annunciation of the Lord refers to the time when the angel Gabriel visited the Blessed Virgin Mary to tell her that she would be the mother of the savior. Mary was the first to hear and believe that God would do what he promised the world. She also discovered that she would play a special role in God's plan for salvation. Jesus would be formed in her womb, and she would care for him.

Mary agreed to God's plan because she wanted her will to be God's will. And she was willing to accept the joy and pain that came along with it to bring Christ to a world that waited for him. On this day, we do not only celebrate the announcement to Mary that she had been chosen to be the mother of Jesus, but also her willing acceptance of the news.

Marking this important event on March 25 is a tradition that has existed since the seventh century. It occurs exactly nine months before December 25, the day we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

The story of the Annunciation has also produced three important liturgical texts: the **Ave Maria**, the **Angelus**, and the **Magnificat**.

The angel's greeting to Mary is translated as "Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee," and this is the opening of the **Ave Maria** and a part of Rosary prayers.



The **Angelus** is made up of three Ave Maria's, along with additional prayers. This is said three times a day in the Roman Catholic Church.

The **Magnificat** (in Luke 1:46-55) is the poem that Mary proclaims to

respond to Gabriel's Annunciation and celebrates God's power. The Magnificat demonstrates that Mary became the herald of salvation.

Some theologians suggest that the story of the Annunciation emphasizes the status of

women because God enlists the help of a woman to create the savior of the world. As the herald of salvation, Mary becomes a spokesperson for justice and marginalized people who also became both the focus of Jesus Christ *and* Christians in the Church.

<https://www.mercyhome.org/blog/sunday-mass/the-importance-of-the-solemnity-of-the-annunciation-of-the-lord/>

Blessed Chaminade noted the angel's deep reverence, saying, "The angel did not dare even to pronounce her holy name. 'Hail, full of grace!' What respect he had for this vessel of election..."