

# A Promise from God

Galatians 3:15-22

New  
Testament  
Reading

Today's New Testament reading is from the book of Galatians which is a letter that Saint Paul wrote to the people living in Galatia. The part that we heard today is full of complicated phrases, but the phrases come together to create a beautiful message.



Do you remember Abraham from the Old Testament? Abraham was very old when God made a promise to him.

"[God] took [Abram] outside and said: Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so, he added, will your descendants be. Abram put his faith in the LORD, who attributed it to him as an act of righteousness." Genesis 15:5-6



Even though he was old, even though he had never had a child, Abraham believed that God would keep His promise. He believed that he would have as many descendants as the number of stars in the sky. Abraham had faith in God.

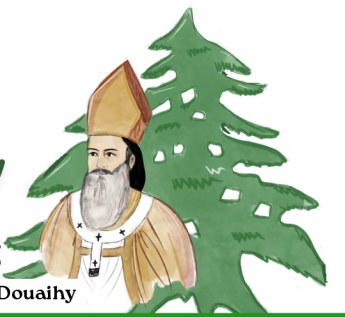
And so, after hundreds of years, God became flesh in the world in the person of Jesus as the fulfillment of His promise. Jesus came into the world as one of Abraham's descendants.



Not only is Jesus one of the descendants promised by God, but through *our* faith, the Church, the mystery of baptism, and the beauty of adoption, *we* also become one of the promised descendants as sons and daughters of God.

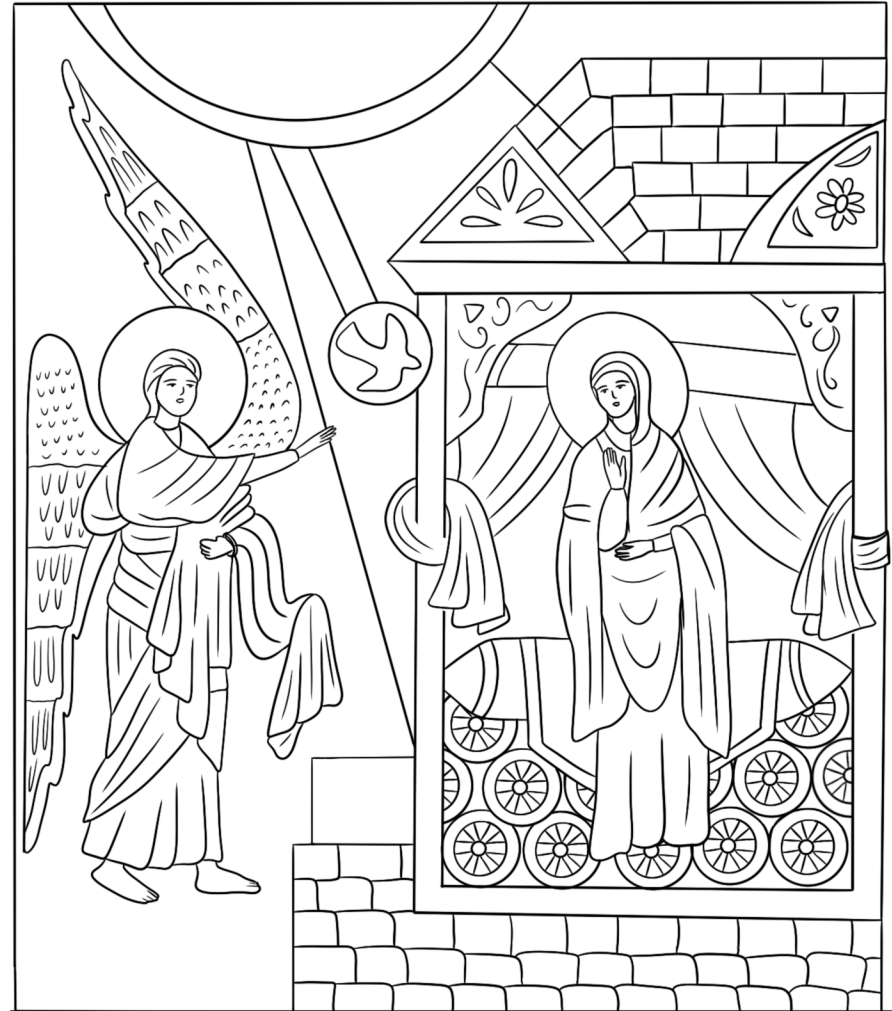


# Cedar Kids



The Way of Blessed Estephan Douaihy

Announcement to Mary, Vol 2, No. 4



From this day, on earth,  
the peace of God is planted,  
and the heights and depths cry out:  
"O Come, Lord Jesus!"





# Gospel Corner

Luke  
1:26-38

Today we celebrate the Annunciation, the beautiful moment in history when the Archangel Gabriel appeared to Mary to announce to her she would become pregnant with a child who would be the Son of God.

One very special part of this encounter between Archangel Gabriel and Mary was how he first greeted her. Remember when Gabriel appeared to the priest Zechariah, the first thing he said was "Be not afraid." It could be a very scary thing to suddenly see an angel appear in front of you, so this greeting makes a lot of sense.



But with the young woman, Mary, the Archangel's first greeting to her was something completely different! When Gabriel appeared to Mary in her home, his first words to her was "Hail, full of grace!" What does this mean exactly? And why is it important?

In the beginning, when God first created man and woman in His image and likeness, they were in a state of Sanctifying Grace. Sanctifying Grace is the supernatural gift of God's own life that makes a person holy and pleasing to Him. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, one of the consequences was the loss of this Sanctifying Grace. Because of Original Sin, we are now born deprived of Sanctifying Grace which we receive once again in Baptism.

The Blessed Mother Mary, however, was born without Original Sin. As the Archangel Gabriel acknowledged when he spoke to Mary, she was "full of grace," meaning she was filled with Sanctifying Grace and received and responded to actual graces from God throughout her life.



## Did you know?

### GRACE

Grace is God's free and undeserved gift of love that helps each of us become closer to Him.

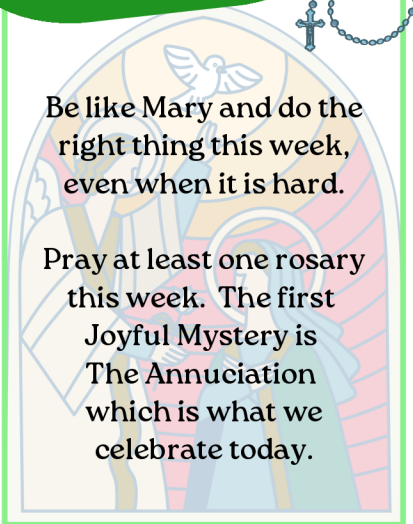
At Baptism, we receive a special and lifelong grace called Sanctifying Grace.

Throughout life, we receive actual grace to help us in specific moments and situations to give us the strength to choose the right thing to do.

## What you can do

Be like Mary and do the right thing this week, even when it is hard.

Pray at least one rosary this week. The first Joyful Mystery is The Annunciation which is what we celebrate today.



## Fiat Poem

We often refer to Mary's "yes" or her agreement to do the will of the Lord as Mary's "Fiat." Use the letters below to create an acrostic poem about Mary. Each letter in the word "Fiat" should be the first letter of the first word in each line. It can rhyme or not - that part is up to you!

F \_\_\_\_\_  
I \_\_\_\_\_  
A \_\_\_\_\_  
T \_\_\_\_\_

