

Annunciation, Restoring the Liturgy

How can the Mysteries of the Annunciation and the Incarnation help the Church ?

The Annunciation used to be a holy day of obligation and was celebrated by everyone in the universal Church. The goal of this article is to help restore in the average lay Catholic the active participation and celebration of that all important feast.

A time to grow

Studying, meditating, and learning about the truths God has revealed should not be looked upon as a burden to be overcome, but rather as opportunity to grow more deeply into what is the most loving relationship possible for us, our relationship with God.

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son ...”

The mysteries of the Annunciation and Incarnation are like dynamite waiting for us to tap into their awesome power. They offer us the opportunity to grow much more deeply in love with God by meditating on them because they are like spiritual goldmines.

The Importance of the Solemnity of the Annunciation/Incarnation

Pope Benedict XVI

The coming of the Messiah, foretold by the Prophets, is qualitatively the most important event of all history, on which it confers its ultimate and full meaning. It is not historical and political coordinates that condition God’s choice, but on the contrary, the event of the Incarnation that “fills” history with value and meaning.

(Homily of December 31, 2006)

The Incarnation is the turning point of all human history (BC to AD).



John 8:58

“Jesus said to them, “... before Abraham came to be, I AM.”

1. The Beauty of Life

Christmas is a great time of the year. And probably even more important than the miracle at Bethlehem is the one which took place 9 months before in Nazareth. The Angel Gabriel came to a humble Virgin named Mary. And the Second Person of the Trinity, the One who has lived from all eternity, and who has made all things, came to live in Mary’s womb when He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit.

2. Increase the Foundation for Marian Devotion

Some people reject Mary because they have her so far removed and separated from Christ. They misperceive any devotion to her as being opposed to Christ. For them it is, “Jesus **or** Mary.”

However, by celebrating both the Annunciation to Mary and the Incarnation of Christ together we can proclaim the bed-rock upon which Marian devotion is based, that she is united to Christ. All the glory goes to God who in turn manifests His glory in and through the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the Saints. He is the Source while we are called to be channels of that grace to the world. (LG 60, 62)

Luke 1:26-28

“Hail, full of grace. The Lord is with you.”

Luke 1:41-45

“Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb...Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.”