

MORNING MEDITATION

Annunciation of the Lord

**Purpose gives meaning to life,
and life is best lived when it's driven by purpose.**

Isaiah 7:10-14

Ahaz, a weak and worldly king, during a time of great turmoil, is promised a sign from God: "the virgin shall be with child and bear a son and shall name him Emmanuel, meaning, "God is with us".

Psalm 40

**Sacrifice or oblation you wished not;
But ears open to obedience you gave me.
Holocausts or sin-offerings you sought not;
Then I said, "Behold, I come".**

Hebrews 10:4-10

This excerpt tells us that what God desires is not sacrifice and holocausts, but "heart of obedience".

Luke 1:26-38

This excerpt tells us about the visit of angel Gabriel to Mary with the great news of the birth of Jesus; "You have found favor with God and you shall conceive and bear a son and give him the name Jesus....." Gabriel assured her that it was through the power of the Holy Spirit that she has conceived this child and that "nothing is impossible with God". Mary surrendered and said to Gabriel, "I am the maidservant of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say". Mary and Elizabeth were called to surrender to God's word and that's our call today! **Be still! Listen! Be discerning! Pray for God's wisdom to know and the courage to fulfill and surrender to his plan for you.**

Mary trusted and surrendered to God's word and God's word became flesh in her. God's word comes to us today through the Scriptures, through lived experiences of many people, through our own personal experiences and through many events and situations. We are called to be sensitive, docile, available and attentive to God's word and let God's word become flesh in our life. **May God's Word of "Love" continue to become flesh, real, tangible, in all of us!**

Saint of the Day, March 25 - Annunciation of the Lord and 13 other saints are remembered this day.

This celebration honors the day on which the angel Gabriel visited Mary and announced that God had chosen her to be the mother of his only Son, Jesus. Mary humbly told the angel that she would do everything God asked of her. We celebrate the Annunciation, which means announcement, exactly nine months before the birth of Christ. On this day, we thank God for his loving plan for all people and we thank him for the gift of Jesus and his mother.

The feast of the Annunciation was first celebrated in the fourth or fifth century. It is a celebration and a proclamation of the Incarnation and redemption mankind. Mary has an important role to play in God's plan for our redemption. God called her to be the mother of Jesus, the redeemer of the world. We gratefully remember Mary's generosity in accepting God's call and surrendering to His plan.

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