

The Annunciation of the Mother of God

The Feast of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary represents the day God sent the archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary to tell her that she was going to have a son and she should call him Jesus. She was frightened, but accepted to obey God's will because she knew that she was part of His plan for our salvation. This Feast is important not only because it celebrates the announcement of the impending birth of our Savior, but also because Mary showed us the importance and glory in following God's path. This Feast is celebrated on March 25th and if it occurs during Great Lent, we have dispensation and are permitted to eat fish.

The Icon

The icon of Feast of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary usually has very bright colors to show how glorious this event is. At the top of the icon, there is sometimes a semi-circle with three rays coming out of it that go towards the Virgin Mary.

These represent the Holy Spirit descending upon her.



The Virgin Mary

In the icon, the Virgin Mary is sometimes shown holding a scroll in her left hand, but usually it's a piece of red yarn to show that she was making a veil for the Temple. Her right hand is usually up to show that she wants the angel to explain what he's telling her. Her head is slightly bowed to show that she accepts God's will. Her robe has three stars on it.

March 25

The Archangel Gabriel

The archangel Gabriel sometimes has a staff in his left hand to show that he is a messenger.

In icons, his right hand is usually extended to show that he's delivering God's message. Sometimes we see one of his wings up and the other one down, and this means that he just arrived to give the Virgin Mary the Good News.

The Virgin Mary's Life

Mary was the daughter of Joachim and Anna. After many years of marriage, her parents were unable to have children. They prayed, then the angel came to them to announce that they would have a baby and Mary was born. She prayed and studied God's commandments as she lived a devout life at the Temple. She was about fifteen years old when she was engaged to Joseph. When the archangel Gabriel came to her, he told her that her cousin Elizabeth was expecting a child. This child would be John the Baptist.

The Annunciation of the Virgin Mary

"...God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.' Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But 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... his kingdom will never end...The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God'...'I am the Lord's servant,' Mary answered.

'May your word to me be fulfilled.'" Luke 1:26-38

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Annunciation of the Virgin Mary.
Be sure to use
bright
colors!



PRAYER

*Virgin Mother of God, rejoice,
Mary full of grace; the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
For thou hast borne the Savior of our souls.*

The Annunciation of the Mother of God

{Teacher's Edition}

Lesson Objective: To have children understand the celebration of The Annunciation of the Mother of God. Explain to them that not only is it important that God showed Mary His path, but also that she accepted to follow it.

Introduction: The Feast of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary represents the day God sent the archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary to tell her that she was going to have a son and she should call him Jesus. She was frightened, but accepted to obey God's will because she knew that she was part of His plan for our salvation. This Feast is important not only because it celebrates the announcement of the impending birth of our Savior, but also because Mary showed us the importance and glory in following God's path. This Feast is celebrated on March 25th and if it occurs during Great Lent, we have dispensation and are permitted to eat fish.

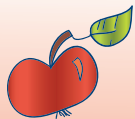
Bible Reading: **The Annunciation of the Mother of God**
“...God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was The Virgin Mary. The angel went to her and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.' Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But 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...his kingdom will never end...The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God'...'I am the Lord's servant,' Mary answered. 'May your word to me be fulfilled.'” Luke 1:26-38

Highlights: **The Icon** – The icon of the Feast of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary usually has very bright colors to show how glorious this event is. At the top of the icon, there is sometimes a semi-circle with three rays coming out of it that go towards the Virgin Mary. These represent the Holy Spirit descending upon her.

The Archangel Gabriel – The archangel Gabriel sometimes has a staff in his left hand to show that he is a messenger. In icons, his right hand is usually extended to show that he's delivering God's message. Sometimes we see one of his wings up and the other one down, and this means that he just arrived to give the Virgin Mary the Good News.

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Activity: Have children color the icon using bright colors.

Prayer:
Virgin Mother of God, rejoice,
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Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
For thou hast borne the Savior of our souls.