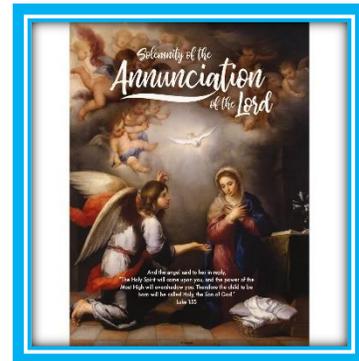
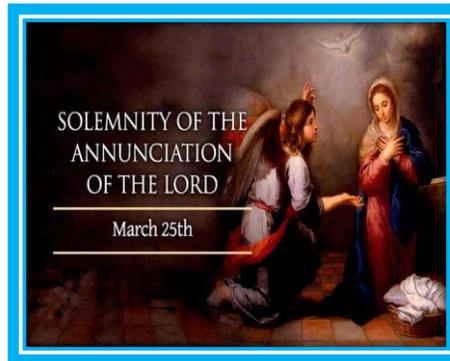
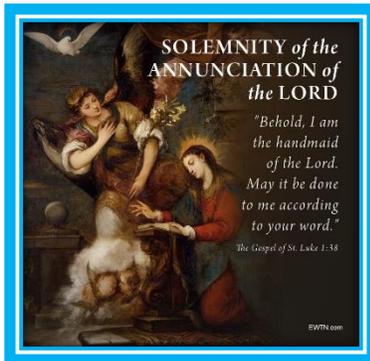


## March 25, 2020 – Wednesday - Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord



**Saying Yes to God's Will, like our Blessed Mother, and allow the Lord to be born, in our hearts and in our troubled world  
(Is 7:10-14; 8:10, Heb 10:4-10, Lk 1:26-38)**

**Happy Solemnity!**

Today is the most glorious feast day of the year. Today is nine months before Christmas. It's the celebration of the Incarnation of our Lord. Today's Gospel tells us the story of the Annunciation, explaining how God began to keep the promise He had made to King David through the prophet Nathan, that David's descendant would rule the world in an everlasting Kingdom.

### **1. Mary's struggle and questions – Our struggle and questions – Response**

The question of Mary in today's gospel reading 'How can this come about?' is a very human one. It is the kind of question that is asked by others in the gospels. When Jesus was with his disciples in the wilderness in the presence of a hungry crowd, they asked him, 'How can one feed these people with bread here in the desert?' When we stand before a situation which seems beyond our resources to deal with, **we all find ourselves asking the same kind of question, 'How can this be?' 'How will I get through this?' It is a question many people are asking in this time of national and global emergency.**

The Gospel reading suggests that Mary only came to say 'Let what you have said be done to me' after a lot of struggle. We are reminded of Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane. His prayer eventually brought him to the point where he could say, 'Not my will but yours be done'. Again, that was only after a great struggle, in the course of which he had prayed, 'Remove this cup from me'. The experience of Mary and of Jesus suggest that responding

to God's call, remaining faithful to God's will for our lives, will always involve a struggle of some kind. The nature of that struggle will be different for each of us.

**We engage in the struggle, but we are not alone in it.** The power of the Most High will overshadow us, as it overshadowed Mary; the Holy Spirit will come upon us, as it came upon Mary. In our struggle, problem of every kind, we are also encouraged by the words of Gabriel to Mary, 'nothing is impossible to God'. As Mary's adult son, Jesus, will go on to say, 'for God all things are possible'. Mary herself is also a resource in our struggle which is why we ask her to intercede for us, 'Pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death'.

## **2. Mother Mary, at the Annunciation teaches us many things**

### **a. Mother Mary teaches the supreme goodness of obedience:**

"Behold, I am the Handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to Me, according to Your Word" (Lk 1: 38). This obedience to God's Will would turn out to be Her fortress and strength – in moments of uncertainty, loneliness, dread and agony.

### **b. "Faithfulness, thy true Daughter is Mary!":**

One of the most outstanding qualities to be admired and imitated from our Blessed Mother is "to be faithful". In Mother Mary, we have a person, who remained faithful at all times even when there were dark clouds of unwarranted humiliation looming over her, even when unforeseen difficulties encountered Her during the birth of Jesus, even when she encountered many situations which were not understood by Her and even when life surrounded her with agonizing moments and heartbreaking instances. This act of being "faithful forever" was a result of the constant choices that She made to listen and obey to God's Will always.

### **c. Mary was ready to be moulded and shaped by God:**

When Mary was entrusted with the greatness of the task, She gave Herself readily to the power of God. She didn't hold back anything; She was complete in Her surrender. It is when we offer ourselves wholly and be ready to be moulded and shaped by the Lord, that He can perform wonders through us.

### **d. Mary held on to Jesus as the Greatest Treasure of Her life:**

The greatness and the eminence of Mother Mary came as result of Her single-minded focus and love: Everything for Jesus and in Jesus. When in womb Her sole attention was on Jesus. While in the manger Her whole care was for Jesus. While in His ministry Her thoughts were centered on Him. While on the Cross Her entire self-rested on Him. It is when Jesus becomes the Treasure of our life, that our lives gets enshrined in Grace and Holiness.

**e. Mary is the New Ark of the Covenant, bearing Jesus.**

The Scriptures easily point to the fact that Mother Mary is the New Ark of the Covenant. The Ark in the NT, Mary travels to Judah, to meet Her cousin Elizabeth and remained for 3 months (Lk 1:39, 56). As the New Ark of the Covenant, Mother Mary deserves our highest veneration and honor, which will lead us to a greater closeness and intimacy with the One, She derives all Her praise – Jesus, Her Son and our Brother!

May we embrace Mary, the beautiful instrument chosen by God and be led to love the Lord more! The Feast of the Annunciation is an invitation for us: To grow deeper into embracing the Will of God in our lives. To give consent to the inspirations of the Lord that comes constantly to us. To be open to march forward in faith and hope, in our life of faith in the Lord. Just as Mary, our Loving Mother, who said Yes to the Will of the Lord, let us also, say Yes to God's Will and allow the Lord to find a place to be born, in our world today.

**Happy Feast of the Annunciation**

**Let us pray:**

Heavenly Father, you offer me abundant grace, mercy, and forgiveness through your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. Help me to live a grace-filled life as Mary did by believing in your promises and by giving you my unqualified 'yes' to your will and plan for my life.

**Jesus, I Trust In You**