

St Joseph Catholic Church  
Eucharistic Adoration Newsletter



December 2023  
Issue 54

Presented by the  
St. Joseph Eucharistic Adoration  
Committee

# St. Joseph's Eucharistic Adoration Newsletter

December 2023 Issue 54

**The Month of  
December is Dedicated  
to the Immaculate  
Conception**



## **THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

"The Eucharist, in the Mass and outside of the Mass, is the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, and is therefore deserving of the worship that is given to the living God, and to Him alone" (St Pope John Paul II, Opening address in Ireland, Phoenix Park, September 29, 1979).

### **Feast Days for December 2023**

3. FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, Sunday
6. Nicholas, Opt. Mem.
7. Ambrose, Memorial
8. IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY, Solemnity
9. Juan Diego (USA) , Opt. Mem.
10. SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, Sunday
11. Damasus I, Opt. Mem.
12. Our Lady of Guadalupe (USA), Feast
13. Lucy, Memorial
14. John of the Cross, Memorial
17. THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, GAUDETE SUNDAY, Sunday
20. Ember Wednesday
21. Peter Canisius, Opt. Mem.
22. Ember Friday
23. John of Kanty; Ember Saturday, Opt. Mem.
24. FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, Sunday
25. NATIVITY OF THE LORD (Christmas), Solemnity
26. Stephen, Feast
27. John, Apostle, Feast
28. Holy Innocents, Feast
29. 5th Day in the Octave of Christmas; Thomas Becket, Opt. Mem.
31. Feast of the Holy Family, Feast

- The History of the Immaculate Conception
- Novena to the Immaculate Conception
- Litany to the Immaculate Conception
- Religious Orders Affiliated with the Immaculate Conception
- Schedule

## THE HISTORY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The Immaculate Conception is the belief that the Virgin Mary was free of original sin from the moment of her conception. It is one of the four Marian dogmas of the Catholic Church. Debated by medieval theologians, it was not defined as a dogma until 1854, by Pope Pius IX in the papal bull *Ineffabilis Deus*. While the Immaculate Conception asserts Mary's freedom from original sin, the Council of Trent, held between 1545 and 1563, had previously affirmed her freedom from personal sin.

The Immaculate Conception became a popular subject in literature,[6] but its abstract nature meant it was late in appearing as a subject in works of art. The iconography of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception shows Mary standing, with arms outstretched or hands clasped in prayer. The feast day of the Immaculate Conception is December 8.

Many Protestant churches rejected the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception as unscriptural, though some Anglicans accept it as a pious devotion. Opinions on the Immaculate Conception in Oriental Orthodoxy are divided: Shenouda III, Pope of the Coptic Orthodox Church, opposed the teaching, as did Patriarch Ignatius Zakka I of the Syriac Orthodox Church; the Eritrean and Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo accept it.] It is not accepted by Eastern Orthodoxy due to differences in the understanding of original sin, although they do affirm Mary's purity and preservation from sin. Patriarch Anthimus VII of Constantinople (1827–1913) characterized the dogma of the Immaculate Conception as a "Roman novelty."

### **Anne, mother of Mary, and original sin**

Anne, the mother of Mary, first appears in the 2nd-century apocryphal Gospel of James, and the author created his story by drawing on Greek tales of the childhood of heroes and on the Old Testament story of Hannah (hence the name Anna/Anne), the mother of the biblical Samuel. Anne and her husband, Joachim, are infertile, but God hears their prayers and Mary is conceived.[16] Within the Gospel of James, the conception occurs without sexual intercourse between Anne and Joachim, which fits well with the Gospel of James' persistent emphasis on Mary's sacred purity, but the story does not advance the idea of an immaculate conception. The author of the Gospel of James may have based this account of Mary's conception on that of John the Baptist as recounted in the Gospel of Luke. The Eastern Orthodox Church holds that "Mary is conceived by her parents as we are all conceived."

According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, and Cyril of Jerusalem developed the idea of Mary as the New Eve, drawing comparison to Eve, while yet immaculate and incorrupt — that is to say, not subject to original sin. The encyclopedia adds that Ephrem the Syrian said she was as innocent as Eve before the Fall.

Ambrose asserted Mary's incorruptibility, attributing her virginity to grace and immunity from sin. Severus, Bishop of Antioch, concurred affirming Mary's purity and immaculateness. John Damascene extended the supernatural influence of God to Mary's parents, suggesting they were purified by the Holy Spirit during her generation. According to Damascene, even the material of Mary's origin was deemed pure and holy. This perspective, which emphasized an immaculate active generation and the sanctity of the *conceptio carnis*, found resonance among some Western authors. Notably, the Greek Fathers did not explicitly discuss the Immaculate Conception.

By the 4th century the idea that Mary was free from sin was generally more widespread, but original sin raised the question of whether she was also free of the sin passed down from Adam. The question became acute when the feast of her conception began to be celebrated in England in the 11th century, and the opponents of the feast of Mary's conception brought forth the objection that as sexual intercourse is sinful, to celebrate Mary's conception was to celebrate a sinful event. The feast of Mary's conception originated in the Eastern Church in the 7th century, reached England in the 11th, and from there spread to Europe, where it was given official approval in 1477 and extended to the whole church in 1693; the word "immaculate" was not officially added to the name of the feast until 1854.

The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception caused a virtual civil war between Franciscans and Dominicans during the Middle Ages, with Franciscan 'Scotists' in its favour and Dominican 'Thomists' against it. The English ecclesiastic and scholar Eadmer (c. 1060 – c. 1126) reasoned that it was possible that Mary was conceived without original sin in view of God's omnipotence, and that it was also appropriate in view of her role as Mother of God: *Potuit, decuit, fecit*, "it was possible, it was fitting, therefore it was done". Others, including Bernard of Clairvaux (1090–1153) and Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274), objected that if Mary were free of original sin at her conception then she would have no need of redemption, making Christ's saving redemption superfluous; they were answered by Duns Scotus (1264–1308), who "developed the idea of preservative redemption as being a more perfect one: to have been preserved free from original sin was a greater grace than to be set free from sin". In 1439, the Council of Basel, in schism with Pope Eugene IV who resided at the Council of Florence, declared the Immaculate Conception a "pious opinion" consistent with faith and Scripture; the Council of Trent, held in several sessions in the early 1500s, made no explicit declaration on the subject but exempted her from the universality of original sin; and also affirmed that she remained during all her life free from all stain of sin, even the venial one.; by 1571 the revised Roman Breviary set out an elaborate celebration of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on 8 December.

The eventual creation of the dogma was due more to popular devotion than scholarship.[34] The Immaculate Conception became a popular subject in literature and art,[6] and some devotees went so far as to hold that Anne had conceived Mary by kissing her husband Joachim, and that Anne's father and grandmother had

likewise been conceived without sexual intercourse, although Bridget of Sweden (c. 1303–1373) told how Mary herself had revealed to her that Anne and Joachim conceived their daughter through a sexual union which was sinless because it was pure and free of sexual lust.

In the 16th and especially the 17th centuries there was a proliferation of Immaculatist devotion in Spain, leading the Habsburg monarchs to demand that the papacy elevate the belief to the status of dogma.[36] In France in 1830 Catherine Labouré (May 2, 1806 – December 31, 1876) saw a vision of Mary standing on a globe while a voice commanded her to have a medal made in imitation of what she saw. The medal said "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee", which was a confirmation of Mary herself that she was conceived without sin, confirming the Immaculate Conception. Her vision marked the beginning of a great 19th-century Marian revival.

In 1849 Pope Pius IX issued the encyclical *Ubi primum* soliciting the bishops of the church for their views on whether the doctrine should be defined as dogma; ninety percent of those who responded were supportive, although the Archbishop of Paris, Marie-Dominique-Auguste Sibour, warned that the Immaculate Conception "could be proved neither from the Scriptures nor from tradition", and in 1854 the Immaculate Conception dogma was proclaimed with the bull *Ineffabilis Deus*.

We declare, pronounce, and define that the doctrine which holds that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore to be believed firmly and constantly by all the faithful.[41]

Dom Prosper Guéranger, Abbot of Solesmes Abbey, who had been one of the main promoters of the dogmatic statement, wrote *Mémoire sur l'Immaculée Conception*, explaining what he saw as its basis: For the belief to be defined as a dogma of faith [...] it is necessary that the Immaculate Conception form part of Revelation, expressed in Scripture or Tradition, or be implied in beliefs previously defined. Needed, afterward, is that it be proposed to the faith of the faithful through the teaching of the ordinary magisterium. Finally, it is necessary that it be attested by the liturgy, and the Fathers and Doctors of the Church.

Our Lady of Lourdes's 9th apparition, 25 February 1858, by Virgilio Tojett (1877), after Bernadette Soubirous' description. Soubirous claimed the Lady identified herself as the "Immaculate Conception".

Guéranger maintained that these conditions were met and that the definition was therefore possible. *Ineffabilis Deus* found the Immaculate Conception in the Ark of Salvation (Noah's Ark), Jacob's Ladder, the Burning Bush at Sinai, the Enclosed Garden from the Song of Songs, and many more passages. From this wealth of support the pope's advisors singled out Genesis 3:15: "The most glorious Virgin ... was foretold by God when he said to the serpent: 'I will put enmity between you and the woman,'" a prophecy which reached fulfilment in the figure of the Woman in the Revelation of John, crowned with stars and trampling the Dragon underfoot. Luke 1:28, and specifically the phrase "full of grace" by

which Gabriel greeted Mary, was another reference to her Immaculate Conception: "she was never subject to the curse and was, together with her Son, the only partaker of perpetual benediction"

Ineffabilis Deus was one of the pivotal events of the papacy of Pius, pope from 16 June 1846 to his death on 7 February 1878. Four years after the proclamation of the dogma, in 1858, the young Bernadette Soubirous said that Mary appeared to her at Lourdes in southern France, to announce that she was the Immaculate Conception; the Catholic Church later endorsed the apparition as authentic. There are other (approved) Marian apparitions in which Mary identified herself as the Immaculate Conception, for example Our Lady of Gietrzwald in 1877, Poland.

**The feast day of the Immaculate Conception is December 8.** The Roman Missal and the Roman Rite Liturgy of the Hours include references to Mary's immaculate conception in the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Its celebration seems to have begun in the Eastern church in the 7th century and may have spread to Ireland by the 8th, although the earliest well-attested record in the Western church is from England early in the 11th. It was suppressed there after the Norman Conquest (1066), and the first thorough exposition of the doctrine was a response to this suppression. It continued to spread through the 15th century despite accusations of heresy from the Thomists and strong objections from several prominent theologians. Beginning around 1140 Bernard of Clairvaux, a Cistercian monk, wrote to Lyons Cathedral to express his surprise and dissatisfaction that it had recently begun to be observed there, but in 1477 Pope Sixtus IV, a Franciscan Scotist and devoted Immaculist, placed it on the Roman calendar (i.e., list of church festivals and observances) via the bull *Cum praexcellsa*. Thereafter in 1481 and 1483, in response to the polemic writings of the prominent Thomist, Vincenzo Bandello, Pope Sixtus IV published two more bulls which forbade anybody to preach or teach against the Immaculate Conception, or for either side to accuse the other of heresy, on pains of excommunication. Pope Pius V kept the feast on the tridentine calendar but suppressed the word "immaculate". Gregory XV in 1622 prohibited any public or private assertion that Mary was conceived in sin. Urban VIII in 1624 allowed the Franciscans to establish a military order dedicated to the Virgin of the Immaculate Conception. Following the promulgation of *Ineffabilis Deus* the typically Franciscan phrase "immaculate conception" reasserted itself in the title and euchology (prayer formulae) of the feast. Pius IX solemnly promulgated a mass formulary drawn chiefly from one composed 400 years by a papal chamberlain at the behest of Sixtus IV, beginning "O God who by the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin."



## Novena to the Immaculate Conception



TO THE IMMACULATE  
CONCEPTION: O God, who by  
the Immaculate Conception of  
the Blessed Virgin Mary, did  
prepare a worthy dwelling  
place for Your Son, we beseech  
You that, as by the foreseen  
death of this, Your Son, You did  
preserve Her from all stain, so  
too You would permit us,

purified through Her intercession, to come unto You. Through the same Lord  
Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy  
Spirit, God, world without end. Amen.

### Day One

O most Holy Virgin, who was pleasing to the Lord and became His mother,  
immaculate in body and spirit, in faith and in love, look kindly on me as  
I implore your powerful intercession.

O most Holy Mother, who by your blessed Immaculate Conception, from the  
first moment of your conception did crush the head of the enemy, receive our  
prayers as we implore you to present at the throne of God the favor we now  
request...

*(State your intention here...)*

O Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Mother of Christ, you had influence  
with your Divine Son while upon this earth; you have the same influence now  
in heaven.

Pray for us and obtain for us from him the granting of my petition if it be the  
Divine Will.

Amen.

## Day Two

O Mary, ever blessed Virgin, Mother of God, Queen of angels and of saints, we salute you with the most profound veneration and filial devotion as we contemplate your holy Immaculate Conception, We thank you for your maternal protection and for the many blessings that we have received through your wondrous mercy and most powerful intercession. In all our necessities we have recourse to you with unbounded confidence.

O Mother of Mercy, we beseech you now to hear our prayer and to obtain for us of your Divine Son the favor that we so earnestly request in this novena...

*(State your intention here...)*

O Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Mother of Christ, you had influence with your Divine Son while upon this earth; you have the same influence now in heaven. Pray for us and obtain for us from him the granting of my petition if it be the Divine Will. Amen

## Day Three

O Blessed Virgin Mary, glory of the Christian people, joy of the universal Church and Mother of Our Lord, speak for us to the Heart of Jesus, who is your Son and our brother.

O Mary, who by your holy Immaculate Conception did enter the world free from stain, in your mercy obtain for us from Jesus the special favor which we now so earnestly seek...

*(State your intention here...)*

O Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Mother of Christ, you had influence  
O Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Mother of Christ, you had influence with your Divine Son while upon this earth; you have the same influence now in heaven.

Pray for us and obtain for us from him the granting of my petition if it be the Divine Will.

Amen.

## Day Four

O Mary, Mother of God, endowed in your glorious Immaculate Conception with the fullness of grace; unique among women in that you are both mother



and virgin; Mother of Christ and Virgin of Christ, we ask you to look down with a tender heart from your throne and listen to our prayers as we earnestly ask that you obtain for us the favor for which we now plead...

*(State your intention here...)*

O Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Mother of Christ, you had influence with your Divine Son while upon this earth; you have the same influence now in heaven.

Pray for us and obtain for us from him the granting of my petition if it be the Divine Will. Amen.

### **Day Five**

O Lord, who, by the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, did prepare a fitting dwelling for your Son, we beseech you that as by the foreseen death of your Son, you did preserve her from all stain of sin, grant that through her intercession, we may be favored with the granting of the grace that we seek for at this time...

*(State your intention here...)*

O Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Mother of Christ, you had influence with your Divine Son while upon this earth; you have the same influence now in heaven. Pray for us and obtain for us from him the granting of my petition if it be the Divine Will.

Amen.

### **Day Six**

Glorious and immortal Queen of Heaven, we profess our firm belief in your Immaculate Conception preordained for you in the merits of your Divine Son. We rejoice with you in your Immaculate Conception. To the one ever-reigning God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three in Person, one in nature, we offer thanks for your blessed Immaculate Conception. O Mother of the Word made Flesh, listen to our petition as we ask this special grace during this novena...

*(State your intention here...)*

O Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Mother of Christ, you had influence with your Divine Son while upon this earth; you have the same influence now in heaven. Pray for us and obtain for us from him the granting of my petition if it be the Divine Will.

Amen.

## Day Seven

O Immaculate Virgin, Mother of God, and my mother, from the sublime heights of your dignity turn your merciful eyes upon me while I, full of confidence in your bounty and keeping in mind your Immaculate conception and fully conscious of your power, beg of you to come to our aid and ask your Divine Son to grant the favor we earnestly seek in this novena... if it be beneficial for our immortal souls and the souls for whom we pray.

*(State your intention here...)*

O Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Mother of Christ, you had influence with your Divine Son while upon this earth; you have the same influence now in heaven. Pray for us and obtain for us from him the granting of my petition if it be the Divine Will.

## Day Eight

O Most gracious Virgin Mary, beloved Mother of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, intercede with him for us that we be granted the favor which we petition for so earnestly in this novena...

O Mother of the Word Incarnate, we feel animated with confidence that your prayers in our behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God.

O Glorious Mother of God, in memory of your joyous Immaculate Conception, hear our prayers and obtain for us our petitions.

*(State your intention here...)*

O Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Mother of Christ, you had influence with your Divine Son while upon this earth; you have the same influence now in heaven. Pray for us and obtain for us from him the granting of my petition if it be the Divine Will.

## Day Nine

O Mother of the King of the Universe, most perfect member of the human race, "our tainted nature's solitary boast," we turn to you as mother, advocate, and mediatrix.

O Holy Mary, assist us in our present necessity. By your Immaculate Conception, O Mary conceived without sin, we humbly beseech you from the

bottom of our heart to intercede for us with your Divine Son and ask that we be granted the favor for which we now plead...

*(State your intention here...)*

O Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Mother of Christ, you had influence with your Divine Son while upon this earth; you have the same influence now in heaven. Pray for us and obtain for us from him the granting of my petition if it be the Divine Will. Amen.

### **Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Lord, have mercy on us.  
Christ, have mercy on us.  
Lord, have mercy on us.  
Christ, hear us.  
Christ, graciously hear us.  
God the Father of Heaven,  
Have mercy on us.  
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,  
Have mercy on us.  
God the Holy Ghost,  
Have mercy on us.  
Holy Trinity, one God,  
Have mercy on us.  
Holy Mary,  
pray for us.  
Holy Mother of God,  
pray for us.  
Holy Virgin of virgins,  
pray for us.  
Mother of Christ,  
pray for us.  
Mother of divine grace,  
pray for us.  
Mother most pure,  
pray for us.  
Mother most chaste,  
pray for us.  
Mother inviolate,

pray for us.  
Mother undefiled,  
pray for us.  
Mother most amiable,  
pray for us.  
Mother most admirable,  
pray for us.  
Mother of good counsel,  
pray for us.  
Mother of our Creator,  
pray for us.  
Mother of our Savior,  
pray for us.  
Virgin most prudent,  
pray for us.  
Virgin most venerable,  
pray for us.  
Virgin most renowned,  
pray for us.  
Virgin most powerful,  
pray for us.  
Virgin most merciful,  
pray for us.  
Virgin most faithful,  
pray for us.  
Mirror of justice,  
pray for us.  
Seat of wisdom,  
pray for us.  
Cause of our joy,  
pray for us.  
Spiritual vessel,  
pray for us.  
Vessel of honor,  
pray for us.  
Singular vessel of devotion,  
pray for us.  
Mystical rose,  
pray for us.  
Tower of David,  
pray for us.

Tower of ivory,  
pray for us.  
House of gold,  
pray for us.  
Ark of the Covenant,  
pray for us.  
Gate of Heaven,  
pray for us.  
Morning star,  
pray for us.  
Health of the sick,  
pray for us.  
Refuge of sinners,  
pray for us.  
Comforter of the afflicted,  
pray for us.  
Help of Christians,  
pray for us.  
Queen of angels,  
pray for us.  
Queen of patriarchs,  
pray for us.  
Queen of prophets,  
pray for us.  
Queen of apostles,  
pray for us.  
Queen of martyrs,  
pray for us.  
Queen of confessors,  
pray for us.  
Queen of virgins,  
pray for us.  
Queen of all saints,  
pray for us.  
Queen conceived without Original Sin,  
pray for us.  
Queen assumed into Heaven,  
pray for us.  
Queen of the most holy Rosary,  
pray for us.

Queen of peace,  
pray for us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,  
Spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,  
Graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,  
Have mercy on us.

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God,  
That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.  
Grant, we beseech Thee, O Lord God, that we Thy Servants may enjoy  
perpetual health of mind and body and by the glorious intercession of the  
Blessed Mary, ever Virgin, be delivered from present sorrow and enjoy eternal  
happiness. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.



## **Religious Orders Affiliated with the Immaculate Conception**

The following are some of the religious orders which are affiliated with the Immaculate Conception.

There are other orders, this is not a comprehensive list.

**Order of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady**

**Mission Priests of the Immaculate Conception**

**Servites of the Immaculate Conception**

**Sister Servites of the Immaculate Conception**

**Sisters of Providence of the Immaculate Conception**

**Sisters of the Immaculate Conception (France)**

**Sisters of the Immaculate Conception (Louisiana)**

**Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of Mary  
(originally from Spain)**

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## **ADORATION HOURS & LOCATION**

**Cody Center Chapel**

### **ADORATION HOURS**

**Monday - Thursday**

9:00 AM to 9:00 PM

**Friday**

9:00 AM to 6:30 PM

### **ADORATION FOR VOCATIONS**

**Last Friday**

7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

### **NOCTURNAL ADORATION**

**1st Friday**

7 PM until 7 AM Saturday

**2nd Friday**

7 PM until 7 AM Saturday (Hispanic Community)