

This is the Catholic minute on the Immaculate Conception.

In the papal encyclical *Ineffabilis Deus* on 08 Dec 1854 Pope Pius IX pronounced and defined that the Blessed Virgin Mary:

"in the first instance of her conception, by a singular privilege and grace granted by God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved exempt from all stain of original sin."

The history and seeds of the Immaculate Conception are planted in scripture and tradition. Primarily in:

- Genesis 3:15
- Luke 1:28

and that Church Fathers throughout the centuries; Saints Irenaeus, Cyril, and even St. Augustine to name a few.

We see that an angel of deception appears to Eve (in a state of perfection) and her disobedience causes Adam and all humanity to fall by partaking in the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Thus an angel of truth brings the Annunciation to Mary (the New Eve) so that way we receive Jesus through her obedience, eating from the Tree of Life, Jesus.

Thus, in God's wisdom in wanting to reconcile all things to Himself, He prepares Mary for her role in Salvation and because of the merits of her Son, she was conceived without Sin.

## **EXTRA INFO**

- It's helpful to know that just because something is defined at a particular date, doesn't mean it was introduced or formulated at that time with no prior history.
- Any doctrine about the Blessed Virgin Mary is about Jesus.
  
- Church Fathers:
  - Justin (*Dialogue with Trypho* 100)
  - Irenaeus (*Against Heresies* III.22.4)
  - Tertullian (*On the Flesh of Christ* 17)
  - Julius Firmicus Maternus (*De errore profan. relig* xxvi)
  - Cyril of Jerusalem (*Catecheses* 12.29)
  - Epiphanius (*Hæres.*, lxxviii, 18)

- Theodotus of Ancyra (Or. in S. Deip n. 11)
- Sedulius (Carmen paschale, II, 28)
- St Augustine

**Sources:**

CCC 490-495

Genesis 3:15

Luke 1:26

New Advent

<https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/07674d.htm>

Ineffabilis Deus

<https://www.papalencyclicals.net/pius09/p9ineff.htm>