

## The Immaculate Conception – 2025 Evening Mass

***“May it be done to me according to your word.”***

Words are powerful.

*I do. I am innocent. I love you. Call 911. I quit. I will never leave you.  
I’m sorry.*

Yes, words are powerful. They matter. And maybe no words are as powerful as the ones we just heard from Mary: ***“May it be done to me according to your word.”***

Those words still give me chills every time I hear them. Maybe it’s because a big part of me wishes I could say them— wishes...that I could tell God that I will do whatever he asks of me, no matter what.

And yet, it’s not the words Mary spoke to the angel that really mattered. The words were simply a reflection of what was taking place in Mary’s heart. For Mary, these words were not empty— words that sounded good.

Rather her words were simply an expression of a life filled with love and openness and humility and trust and faith.

That’s what we celebrate this day, on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception—a day on which we give thanks to God for the singular grace He poured into Mary’s soul from the moment of her conception—a grace not “earned”, but one given as pure gift.

There is a verse in the very popular song “*Mary did you know?*” that often confuses Christians. It goes like this: “[Mary did you know] *this child that you've delivered, will soon deliver you.*”

Consider an analogy: Suppose a man falls into a deep pit, and someone reaches down to pull him out. The man has been “saved” from the pit. Now imagine a woman walking along, and she too is about to topple into the pit, but at the very moment that she is to fall in, someone holds her back and prevents her.

Mary was not only saved from falling into the pit, she was prevented from getting stained by the mud.

This is the illustration Christians have used for a thousand years to explain how Mary was saved by Christ. By receiving Christ’s grace at her conception, she had his grace applied to her before she was to become mired in Original sin.

The good news is that God had something wonderful in store for Mary. And God has something wonderful in store for each of us too. But words aren’t enough. May we have the faith and courage to say “Let it be” in every moment of our lives.

God will make sure we have what it takes. God will make sure we have the grace to carry out whatever he is asking of us. Mark my words.