



Come, Lord Jesus!

NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2025 VOL. CVIV NO. 125



This is the only biblical instance where an angel addresses someone by a title instead of a personal name.

Mary has been the object of God's favor from the beginning. God endowed Mary with an abundance of grace to prepare her for the vocation of divine motherhood and to make her a sterling example of Christian holiness (CCC 490-493, 722).

Since Mary was full of grace from the first moment of her conception, her whole being was permeated with the divine presence and the indwelling of the Blessed Trinity. Her whole person was oriented toward God – never for a moment was she ever self-centered. Everything about her was for God. She gave him constant glory. *“My being proclaims the greatness of the Lord”* was her perpetual song.

It was necessary that Mary be full of grace in this way so that she would not leave the least stain on Jesus' soul and his psychological and moral make-up. Her formation of him, the Son of God, had to be absolutely perfect and sinless. He must not have the least bad habit etched into his character by her maternal influence. God saw to this by accomplishing an entirely new creation. Thus, Mary would not have the least inclination to sin. She lived for God, just as Jesus did (Rom 6:10) – only he, of course, was divine.

December
Every Thursday
Memorial Mass
for the enrollees
in the CLJ!
Memorial Burse

December 7
Second Sunday of Advent

December 8
The Immaculate
Conception of the Blessed
Virgin Mary

December 14
Third Sunday of Advent

December 21
Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 25
The Nativity of the Lord

December 28
The Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary and Joseph

Mary, Chosen Mother of God

“Rejoice, so highly favored! The Lord is with you.” (Jerusalem Bible) Luke 1:28

The word *“Rejoice!”* crowns the theme of joy and gladness that punctuates Luke's infancy narrative (1:14, 44,47,58,2:10,20). The call to rejoice echoes Old Testament passages that address Daughter Zion. In the Prophets, this refers to mother Jerusalem, whose faithful children will rejoice in the messianic age because God has chosen to dwell in their midst (Joel 2:23-24; Zeph 3:14-17; Zech 9:9).

Mary, chosen to be the virgin mother of the Messiah, is greeted with the same summons because she is the embodiment of faithful Israel and the most privileged recipient of God's messianic blessings (see Ignatius Catholic Study Bible, the Gospel of Luke).

“Favored one”, “full of grace”, “so highly favored” – these phrases are used to translate the Greek word *kecharitomene*.

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Mary, Full of Grace

Mary's fullness of grace from the moment of her conception was so different from us. The effects of original sin passed on to us by Adam and Eve mean that we were deprived of grace from the first moment of our conception. Our graceless formation uninhibitedly tended toward every sinful habit. These sinful tendencies remain in us even after baptism. We then have God's sanctifying grace and its powers to help us overcome these sinful tendencies. But we remain self-centered and inclined toward sin. It takes a lifetime of concerted effort, struggle and dependence on God to overcome these. We need to call upon Mary often – for she compassionates our plight. She intercedes for us. She is our mother.

The Catechism teaches that Mary's graced privileges were given to her because of the foreseen merits of Jesus' redemptive work. *"The 'splendor of an entirely unique holiness' by which Mary is 'enriched from the first instant of her conception' comes wholly from Christ" she is 'redeemed, in a more exalted fashion, by reason of the merits of her Son.' The Father blessed Mary more than any other created person..."* (CCC 492).

The words, *"The Lord is with you"* simply bring out how close and near God was with Mary. She is particularly dear to him.

Mary Ponders

Mary *"pondered what sort of greeting this might be"* (Lk 1:29). The word *"ponder"* means to weigh carefully in our mind, to give something serious thought, to consider quietly, soberly and deeply.

Mary demonstrated this attitude of pondering over God's word and action on other occasions. After the shepherds' visit and their telling about the angel's revelation to them about the child and the multitude of angels praising God as the glory of the Lord shone around them (Lk 2:8-18), St. Luke tells us that, *"Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart"* (Lk 2:19). Mary exemplified for us how seriously we ought to take God's words and actions recorded for us in the Bible and spend considerable time pondering over them. This ought to become a daily priority for us.

Mary is Praised

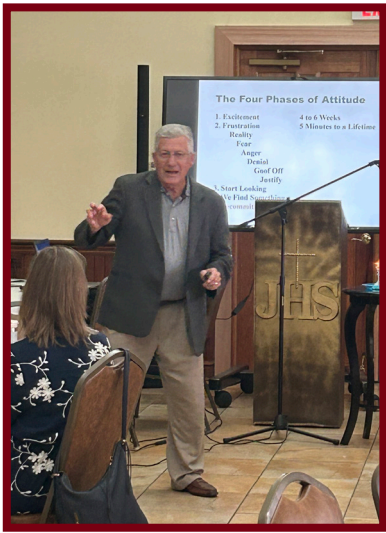
One day while Jesus was speaking, *"a woman from the crowd called out and said to him, 'Blessed is the womb that carried you and the breasts at which you nursed'."* Jesus replied, *"Rather, blessed are those who hear the Word of God and observe it"* (Lk 11:27-28).

The woman was so impressed and had such great admiration for Jesus; she was full of praise for the mother who gave him life and formed him. What a beautiful person she must be! And how fortunate she is to have such a Son! Jesus responds to the compliment for his mother by saying she is far more blessed for having the word of God and carried it out. It was because Mary said *"yes"* to God's word through the angel and consented to God's will that she is so blessed. Her faithfully standing by the cross in support of Jesus indicates that she obeyed God to the very last, no matter how difficult it was.

Mary's Motherly Role

Mary mothered the Church by her maternal presence. After Jesus' ascension we are told that the apostles and the women entered the city of Jerusalem and went to the upper room. *"All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, and his brothers"* (Acts 1:14). She who drew the Holy Spirit upon her by her faithfulness and prayer so that she became the mother of Jesus, now leads the disciples in prayer as the mother of the Church. Together they await the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church.

Father Conley Bertrand



Abbeville
Area



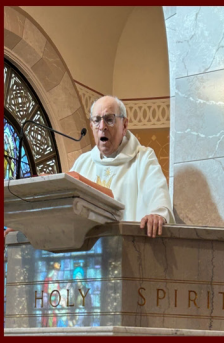
New Iberia / Franklin
Area



Morgan City Area

Spiritual Formation

Anniversary Mass Cathedral of Immaculate Conception Lake Charles, LA





Algiers, LA: Marcia Legendre
Breaux Bridge, LA: Donna Thevenet
Broussard, LA: John C. George, Jr.
Franklin, LA: Stephanie Calhoun, Lana Downing
 Barbara Conn, Dennis Conn, Stephanie Martin
Fritch, TX : Donna Campas
Kenner, LA: Rose Marie Mayeux
Krotz Springs, LA: Emma Artigue, Denise Cannatella
Maurice, LA: Kelli Romero
Metairie, LA: Mary Patterson
New Iberia, LA: Linda Claus
Parks, LA: Tori Vandeklundert
Perry, LA: Carolyn Stoute
Ragley, LA: Mary Beck
Rayne, LA: Kristi Benoit
Sulphur, LA: Phyllis Watts
Terrytown, LA: Debra Braganza
Westwego, LA: Lynn St Blanc, Kayla St Blanc
 Rick St Blanc

Returning members

Youngsville, LA: Dorothy Thibodeaux
 Sonya Thibodeaux
Cow Island, LA: Yvonne Simon



Gift Bags Received During the month of October 2025

Thank you for your generosity!

Abbeville	Gretna	Natchez
Algiers	Harvey	New Iberia
Avery Island	Henderson	New Orleans
Baton Rouge	Houma	Oberlin
Bayou Vista	Iota	Opelousas
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Broussard	Jennings	Pierre Part
Cankton	Kenner	Ragley
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Carlyss	Lacombe	Schriever
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Coteau	Leonville	St. Martinville
DeRidder	Marrero	Sunset
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Erath	Metairie	Vidrine
Eunice	Milton	Ville Platte
Fenton	Mire	Washington
Forked Island	Morgan City	Westwego
Franklin	Morse	Youngsville
Grand Prairie		



Oct. 1-22 2025

Memorial Burse Donations

John Carpenter
Karen Webb Landreneau
Suzette Lowe
Dale Cordell
Carlton Larson



Condolences

To co - leader Sarah Webb from Ville Platte, LA on the death of her daughter, Karen Webb Landreneau.

To the members of "Rich In Mercy" group in Lake Charles, LA on the death of their member, Denise Collett.

To the members of "Aroma of Christ" group in New Iberia, LA on the death of their member and former leader, Gloria Girouard.

To leader Roane Risher of Bossier City, LA on the death of her mother, Jane Roane de Gravelles.

To member Mike Pothier of Broussard, LA on the death of his wife, Cindy Leger Pothier (who was also a member).

To member Arlene Thibodeaux of Parks, LA on the death of her mother, Marion Dugas Naquin.

To member Audrey Augustus of Duson, LA on the death of her husband, Ronald Augustus, Sr.

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Come, Lord Jesus!
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