

St. Patrick Catholic Church

Why is Mary's role important in the New Testament?

Joseph Derico

Theology 201: Foundations of Theology

Throughout the New Testament, Mary, the mother of Jesus is constantly making appearances at pivotal moments in salvation history. She was the vessel which brought salvation into the world, and without her, the church would not have her savior. She was also the woman who held the greatest role in all the bible. However, people are constantly begging the question, "Was Mary Immaculately conceived?" These scenes from scripture outlined above, provide the basis for the claim that Mary really was immaculately conceived, and crucial to salvation history, for without her, Christ would not have been able to come into the world as he did.

"Hail, Full of Grace"

The first words spoken to Mary in scripture are, "Hail favored one, the Lord is with you". These words come straight from the mouth of Gabriel, the archangel, his title, archangel, means that his sole purpose was to be a direct messenger of God. Therefore, these words come on God's authority. Furthermore, the Greek word for angel, "ánggelos" which means messenger, was also the title of one of the servants of a king or aristocrat. This "ánggelos" of a king was traditionally understood and received as the personal embodiment of the person whom they were representing. Fr. Blake Britton, in his work, Reclaiming Vatican II says, "They only came to expressly share the words of their master. The words of Gabriel are not his words, then, but God's words...Thus we find the source and origin of Marian veneration is God himself" This is a truly profound revelation, without which, the rest of the sentiment means nothing of consequence. For the word of God, means much more, than the word of some man on his own authority.

The first word, even holds hidden meaning, "Hail" in the original Greek, is "Χαίρε", this word, was traditionally reserved for royalty. These are God's words, who could provide a higher honor to an individual? Additionally, that word, is only employed, as Fr. Britten says, in four other places in the New Testament, and each of them is used in the gospel accounts of the passion, "Hail (Χαίρε), King of the Jews". This directly connects Mary, in yet another way, to the passion and death of her Son.

The term "favored one" is what makes this scene so interesting. St. Jerome translated these words in a more correct sense, to "gratia plena" or "full of grace". "Full of Grace" means by nature, that within Mary, there was no room for anything besides grace. If something is full, then it cannot, by nature of the word, take anything more. However, this term, gets even more interesting, whenever one considers the original Greek in which the gospel was written. The word used there, is "kecharitōmenē". This word, when literally translated to English, means, "you who have been made to be graced". So, to sum this whole line up, there is God himself saying, "Hail (royalty), you who were made to be graced".

The Immaculate Conception

This line, then, provides the basis upon which the dogma of the Immaculate Conception is presented. Returning briefly to the Latin translation by St. Jerome, "gratia plena", that is full of grace, the Blessed Virgin Mary is 100 percent grace. In order for this to be true, then that means that she would have had to have been 0 percent sin. If this is the case, then Mary had never known

the stain of sin. In addition to these things, consider the biological makeup of Christ. We know that he was both fully man and fully God. St. Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians says "For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him." If Christ did not know sin, then neither could his parents have known sin. We know that the Holy Spirit, who is fully divine, could not have been sin, and so too, it would follow that Mary did not know sin as well.

How then could this be? Since Mary was a descendant of Adam and Eve, and her parents St. Joachim and St. Anne, both knew sin, how was it that Mary did not know sin? Bl. Pius IX, in his document *Ineffabilis Deus*, says,

"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 savior 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."

This definition, of the official teaching of the church, provides a lot to be unpacked, the exegesis of which, would require another paper of this length to properly convey the fullness of the words. However, the major takeaway here, is that, Mary, was preserved, by virtue of Jesus Christ, by the singular grace and privilege of God, from original sin. How much then, God must have loved Mary, and have loved his people, in order to preserve someone from the stain of sin, in order that we might all come closer to him.

Conclusion

In closing, God chose to preserve Mary from all stain of original sin, so that sin would never touch his son, our savior, Jesus Christ. This grace, which he bestowed upon our blessed mother, whom without this grace, would have simply been like any other woman of her time, and have been touched by the stain of sin. This would have tainted the vessel in which Christ came into the world through. He may have entered the earth in a manger, dirty and dark, but he came into it, from the womb of the holiest woman to ever live. In fact, Mary's character, speaks to Christ's style of nobility, in that, he was not a worldly king, yet, he was still God, and Mary's preservation from the stain of original sin, is the first testament to that, in all of Christian history. Her preservation also affirms yet another basic teaching, the acceptance of which has been relied upon in this short paper, that is that Christ was both fully divine and fully man. God would not have gone to that much trouble, to preserve a woman from sin, from the first moment of her conception, just so that she could bear an ordinary man. In the words of St. John Paul II, let us flee to our mother, saying *Totus Tuus*.

A PRAYER FOR THE Third Sunday of Advent

Joy-filled Giver of Life,
let the anticipation of your birth
fill us with overflowing joy.
May our excitement and anticipation
be a sign to the world
that you are always near.
Amen.



St. Patrick Catholic Church

210 Center Avenue
Weston, West Virginia 26452
www.spchurchweston.org
304-269-3048, 304-269-1244 (fax)

Pastor:

Rev. Douglas A. Ondeck
ondeck.douglas@gmail.com
304-269-3048

Secretary:

Sandra Mick, Parish Secretary
secretary@spchurchweston.net

Parish Office Hours:

Monday, 9 - 4
Tuesday, 9 - 4
Wednesday, 12 - 5
Thursday, 9 - 1
Friday, 9 - 1

Prayer Chain:

Micki Snyder, 304 269-3688

For last rites and anointing of the sick, please call 304-691-0537 to speak to Fr. Ondeck.

Mass Schedule

Saturday, 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

Weekday Masses:

Mon., Thurs., & Fri., 8:15 a.m.
Wed., Immediately following
benediction at 5:45 p.m.

(See Weekly Schedule for any changes to times or location!)

Reconciliation:

Wednesday, 5:00—5:40 p.m.
Friday, Immediately following Mass
Saturday, 5:00—5:20 p.m.
Sunday, 10:00—10:20 a.m.
Or by appointment.

Eucharistic Adoration:

Wednesday, 5:00 to 5:45p.m.

Religious Education and Sacramental Prep Coordinator

Megan White
mwhite@stpatricks.school

St. Patrick Catholic School

Pre-School – 8th Grade
224 Center Ave.
Weston, WV 26452
www.stpatswv.org
304-269-5547

Rev. Fr. Douglas A. Ondeck
Acting Principal

Regina Frazier, Secretary
RFrazier@saintpatricks.school

“Forward, always forward, everywhere forward! We must not be held back by debts, bad years or by difficulties of the times. Man’s adversity is God’s opportunity.”

Archabbot Boniface Wimmer, O.S.B.

When Should Catholics Not Receive Holy Communion?

- If you have a mortal sin on your soul. Some serious sins include (but are not limited to) being married outside the church, being unmarried but living together or purposely not attending Sunday Mass or holy days of obligation. For more info on what constitutes a mortal sin, refer to the Catechism of the Catholic Church 1857 - 1859.
- If you have not observed the Eucharistic Fast one hour before receiving. Plan to eat your breakfast after Mass!
- If you have not yet received First Communion.

Why Can’t Non-Catholics Receive Holy Communion?

Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are not admitted to Holy Communion.

For those who cannot receive Eucharist at this time, we welcome you to join in our liturgy, to pray and sing with us. Please remain in the pew during the Communion Procession, offering your heartfelt prayers to our God of love and mercy. We eagerly await the time when you will join us at the Eucharistic table!

Attendance & Collections

Please write separate checks for the different collections.

November 28 - 29, 2021

Saturday:	91	\$1329 (23 envelope/check donors)
Sunday (10:30):	213	\$1196 (29 envelope/check donors)
Sunday (Latin):	N/A	\$0
Mail and Lockbox Donations:		\$455 (6 donor)
Total		\$2980

School	\$0	Maintenance	\$0
Votive Candles	\$55	Organ	\$35
Loan	\$25		

December 4 - 5, 2021

Saturday:	68	\$790 (15 envelope/check donors)
Sunday (10:30):	190	\$1675 (27 envelope/check donors)
Sunday (Latin):	N/A	\$0
Mail and Lockbox Donations:		\$460 (4 donor)
Total		\$2925

School	\$245	Maintenance	\$1300
Votive Candles	\$51	Organ	\$20
Loan	\$10		
Restoration loan balance:	\$69826.04		

Special and Second Collection

- December 11 & 12: Religious Retirement Fund
- All Christmas Masses: Catholic Charities West Virginia

Parish Membership & Benefits:

To be considered an “active” member of any parish (and thus eligible for Sacraments, sponsor eligibility, and the “Active Parishioner Rate of tuition” at a Catholic school), the parish takes into account the following things. First, to receive a discount at a Catholic School or to receive a sacrament, **the children MUST attend weekend Mass**. Second, family & individual involvement in parish life and ministries are taken into consideration. Mass attendance is only able to be tracked accurately via collection envelopes. If you are not receiving envelopes currently, please contact the parish office. Parishioners over 18 should register as a household to help us keep records accurate and up-to-date.

Schedule and Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 11, 2021

5:00 p.m. Confessions
5:30 p.m. Mass for the People of the Parish

Sunday, December 12, 2021,

10:00 a.m. Confessions
10:30 a.m. Mass for †Catherine M. Griffin by family

Monday, December 13, 2021

8:15 a.m. Mass for †Karen Renzilli

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

5:00 p.m. Adoration and confession
6:00 p.m. Mass for †Dave and Pauline Kurtz

Thursday, December 16, 2021

8:15 a.m. Mass for †Regina Quesenberry by family

Friday, December 17, 2021

8:15 a.m. Mass for †Marge Starr by the Class of 1956
8:45 a.m. Confession

Saturday, December 18, 2021

5:00 p.m. Confessions
5:30 p.m. Mass for †Tom Fealy by Tom and Margaret Blake

Sunday, December 19, 2021,

10:00 a.m. Confessions
10:30 a.m. Mass for the People of the Parish

The Sanctuary Lamp is burning December 4—18, in memory of Cathy White Snuffer.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, December 13, 20, & 27,
5:30 p.m., SoulCore, cafeteria

Wednesday, December 15,
5:00 p.m. and after Mass, Fr. Aron Maghsoudi will assist with Adoration, Mass and Confessions

Friday, December 17,
1:00 p.m., & 7:00 p.m.
Christmas Pageant, gym

Wednesday, December 22
Last Day of School before
Christmas break

Our Neighbor Collection

December

- Toilet paper and Tissues

Items can be placed in the plastic tote on the back porch of the parish office.

Prayer List

Of your charity, please offer prayers for...

- **Those who are sick:** Nick Bakas, Jill Balser, Mike Blanchard, John Butcher, Butch Cain, Courtney Clevenger, Rose Determan, Amy Flesher, Sheila Folio, Lynne Fultineer, Marsha Garton, Robert Hamilton, Coretta Jefferson, Emyle Johnston, Ellen Ketron, Bernadette Law, Lynn Lynch, Ed Murray, Susan Murray, Heather Haddix Nicholas, Beth Nichols, Delores Paugh, Raylee Rahming, Brenda Riley, John Riley, Mike Riley, Frank Rogucki, Sheila Sayre, Dale Snyder, Special Intentions, Mary Taylor
- **Those who have died:** David Marlow, May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.
- **All Veterans, and Military Personnel:**
- **Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life**
- **Former priests and religious of and from our parish**
- **Those who are homebound, in assisted living or nursing homes.**
- **All police officers, health care workers, first responders, and mail carriers**

Christmas Mass Schedule

Friday, December 24th
6:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 25th
Midnight and 10:30 a.m.

Weekend Mass Schedule

Sunday, December 26th
10:30 a.m.

*We will not have evening
Mass on Saturday,
December 25th.*



Visiting Priest for Reconciliation, Wednesday, December 15

On Wednesday, December 15, Fr. Aron Maghsoudi, from the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown will assist Fr. Ondeck with Adoration, Confessions, and Mass. They will hear confessions both BEFORE and AFTER Mass. For those of you (myself included) who don't like to confess to your regular parish priest, don't miss this opportunity! This is the only time between now and Christmas that "an outsider" will be at St. Pat's to hear confessions before Christmas.

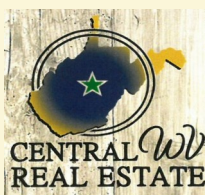
Our weekly Confession times are Wednesday's 5 - 5:40 p.m., Friday mornings immediately after Mass, Saturday's from 5 - 5:20 p.m., and Sunday's from 10—10:20 a.m.



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*Jonathan D. Clutter, Licensee-in-charge,
Patrick D. Boyle, Funeral Director*

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Regina Frazier,
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December
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month)**

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December
(\$125 a month)**

To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact WV Child Protective Services at 800.352.6513. In addition to civil authorities, to report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, please contact one of the Bishop's designees at 888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; Fr. Dennis Schuelkens, ext. 270 or call the Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504. Please visit www.dwc.org under "Accountability" for additional information and reporting methods.

School News

It's Beginning to Look a lot like Christmas, in Fr. Ondeck's Study!

The second grade class visited with Father Ondeck on Friday, December 10 and helped him and Hobo decorate their Christmas tree. They presented Father with a beautiful angel ornament. The students enjoyed decorating the tree but probably not as much as they enjoyed loving on Hobo.



Calling All Youth

We would like to invite all youth in grades 1st—12th to sing at the 6:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve. Sign-up sheets are in the back of the church. The deadline to join is December 15. We will have two practices. The times and dates of these practices will be announced. Any university students who are interested in helping are also welcome.

“The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear.”

Names Needed for Christmas Food Baskets

If you know someone who could benefit from a food basket this Christmas, please call the St. Patrick Church parish office at 304-269-3048 or email secretary@spchurchweston.net. Please ask the person or family if it is okay before adding their name to the list. Please do not add someone who is already receiving a food basket from another church or organization. By doing this, we are able to help more people who otherwise might be overlooked.

When you add someone to the list, you are responsible for distributing the basket of food to them or for making sure they are able to pick up the basket themselves.

We need the following information when you add someone to the list.

- Family name
- Family size (broken down by the number of adults and number children)
- A contact number for the family
- Your name and phone number

Fr. Ondeck Appointed Chaplain for the State and Local Court of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas

Bishop Brennan has appointed Fr. Ondeck as the chaplain of both the local court and the state court of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas. Installation for Fr. Ondeck and the new state officers took place at St. Patrick Church on Saturday, December 4.



Above: Fr. Ondeck blesses the gavel that will be used at all state CDA meetings.



Above: Susan Garton installs Fr. Ondeck as the new state chaplain.



Above: Marilyn Bean; secretary, MaDonna Basile; second vice-regent, Fr. Ondeck, Susan Garton; state regent, Christin Robinson; second vice-regent

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas and the Fifth/Sixth and the Kindergarten Classes Present Car Seats to the Lewis County Family Resource Network

Twenty-four car seats that were purchased from the money collected in the “Change for Life, Baby Bottle fund raiser, were donated to the Lewis County Family Resource Network. FRN representative, Sarah Robinson joined members of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, and students and teachers from the fifth/sixth grades and kindergarten in the gym for a picture.



Gifts from the Holy Land at Morgantown Mall

If you missed purchasing an olive wood carving from “Gifts from the Holy Land” last weekend, they are set up at the Morgantown Mall outside of Claire’s for the rest of the month.



Bishop Brennan asks that all those in attendance at Mass wear a mask, other than those under the age of 2.

SoulCore



SoulCore is held at St. Pats on Monday evening at 5:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

Wear comfortable clothes and join us for light exercise and stretching while we pray the rosary together.