

Advent Penance Project 2021

ST. THÉRÈSE OF CARMEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Week 1 – The Annunciation: *Humility*

Review the first Joyful Mystery. Then reflect on the scripture passage proscribed for each day and the accompanying question. There is no right or wrong answer. What is God saying to you about your life and how sin may have affected it?

Monday – Luke 1:26-28 In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you."

- Mary knew, as a Child of God, who she was. Do you know who you are?

Tuesday – Luke 1:29-30 But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God."

- God's favor now rests with the whole human race. With what gifts has God favored you?

Wednesday – Luke 1:31-33 Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

- Mary's role in Salvation History was to be the "Mother of our Lord." To what role is God calling you to play in the Plan of Salvation?

Thursday – Luke 1:34-35 But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man? And the angel said to her in reply, "The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God."

- Mary trusted the angel Gabriel but did not understand how God needed her to cooperate in His Plan of Salvation. What questions do you need to humbly ask God about your role in the Plan of Salvation?

Friday - Luke 1:36-38 And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

- God asked for a lifelong commitment from Mary, to which she humbly said "yes." You too have been asked to commit your life to Christian discipleship. How well have you followed through with your "yes"?

Having reflected on your identity as a Child of God, your gifts, your call, your questions, and your commitment, how have you succeeded and how have you failed? How have sin and selfishness misdirected your efforts. God gives us both a head and a heart to recognize how we may have failed him. Having now acknowledged some of your shortcomings, perform one act of kindness for someone else as an expression of regret and a desire to be reconciled.