



ARCHDIOCESE OF PALO  
CATECHETICAL MINISTRY

Module 16 Family Catechesis

Fourth Sunday of Advent Year B

Luke 1:26-38 DEC 20, 2020

Jesus, the Emmanuel Dwells in Us.

## INTRODUCTION

Talk about the basic things that families need especially for a house where each member can dwell or live together. Houses can be made of different materials like stone, wood/bamboo, or iron.

If you were to build a house for your family what kind of house would it be?

Jesus was born 2,000 years ago. In our Gospel Story we will see how Mary cooperated with God in preparing a dwelling place for Jesus. Let us see what kind of house Mary would make for Jesus.



## OPENING PRAYER

*(Light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath placed beside the Bible at the altar)*

Mary, Mother of Jesus, you are pure and spotless and have no stain of sin. Help us wait with clean hearts to prepare ourselves to celebrate again the birth of your Son.

Mary, Mother of Jesus, you are close to Jesus. Guide us along the way to your Son and help us ponder his Word. Like you, enable us to desire only what pleases God.

Mary, Mother of Jesus, help us to get ready to receive Jesus in our heart so that we may have the true joy that comes from loving your divine Son. Amen. Glory be.



## PHASE ONE REMEMBER THE STORY OF JESUS

### 1.1 Proclamation of the Gospel Story

*A moment of prayerful silence*

*We will not be able to understand the Word of God unless God himself opens our hearts. Let us now welcome Jesus as he speaks to us through his Word*

*Happy 4th week of Advent!*



A reading from the  
Gospel of Luke 1:26-38

26 In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth. 27 He was sent to a young virgin, who was betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the family of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. 28 The angel came to her and said, "Rejoice, full of grace, the Lord is with you." 29 Mary was troubled at these words, wondering what this greeting could mean. 30 But the angel said, "Do not fear, Mary, for God has looked kindly on you. 31 You shall conceive and bear a son,

and you shall call him Jesus. 32 He will be great, and shall rightly be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the kingdom of David, his ancestor; he will rule over the people of Jacob forever, 33 and his reign shall have no end." 34 Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 35 And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the holy child to be born of you shall be called Son of God. 36 Even your relative Elizabeth is expecting a son in her old age, although she was unable to have a child; and she is now in her sixth month. 37 With God nothing is impossible." 38 Then Mary said, "I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me as you have said." And the angel left her.

### 1.2 Brief Guided silent Meditation / Personal Prayer

What was the message of the angel to Mary?

How did Mary receive the message?

What was Mary's reply to the angel?

(leave some moments for reflections)

### 1.3 Text in Context

#### 1. Where did the Gospel story happen?

The story happened in a small town of Nazareth, part of Galilee in the northern region of ancient Palestine. Joseph and Mary resettled in Nazareth after returning from the flight from Bethlehem to Egypt. There, the Boy Jesus grew up and the place where Holy Family stayed.

#### 2. How did Luke introduce Mary in the Gospel?

She was a young virgin, who was betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the family of David;

At New Testament time, a betrothal meant *that the actual marriage would take place in the fairly near future*. Mary might be a young teenager when the angel Gabriel appeared before her.

#### 3. What was the greeting of the angel Gabriel to Mary?

*Rejoice, full of grace, the Lord is with you."*

#### 4. What was announced to Mary by the Angel?

She shall conceive and bear a son, and she shall call him Jesus.

#### 5. What would become the child Jesus whom Mary will bear?

*He will be great, and shall rightly be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the kingdom of David, his ancestor; he will rule over the people of Jacob forever, and his reign shall have no end.*

Palestine the land of the Israelites had been under the foreign rule for many years, though it enjoyed its power for some years under King David. God promised to them that a Saviour would be born among them in the line of David. Under his rule, nobody can take away his power.

#### 6. How do you think Mary felt when the angel Gabriel appeared to her?

She wondered how she can have a child since she was not married, though already engaged with Joseph.

### 7. What was the angel's response?

*The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you*

PHASE II REFLECT the Story  
of the Church  
(Teachings of the Church)



### God dwells in a heart that is filled with grace

Mary is filled with God's blessings. The Angel greeted her: *Hail, full of grace*. She is blest among the people of her time, and even now, not of her own doing but through God's action in her. All blessings come from God who dwells in simple things like the simple village of Nazareth and the simple family of Mary.

We may not know but God is blessing each one of us everyday. Several times at Mass the priest greets us: *the Lord is with you* and we reply: *and with your spirit*.

God's dwelling in us is the blessing itself. This what makes Christmas. God is with us, the Emmanuel.

Let us reflect:

Will the Infant Jesus find a dwelling place in my heart?  
Do I see Jesus's presence happening in my experiences now? What makes me experience his presence as blessings particularly in my family?

### God dwells in a heart that is youthful

Mary was very young when she gave birth to Jesus. We may recognize her as forever youthful, because she never aged through sin. She allows herself to be totally taken up by God so there is no room within her for sin.

We have to be careful. Some people may be young but have grown old because of sin. Sin makes us grow old, not age. Like Mary let us say 'no' to sin, and to live a beautiful life, by saying 'yes' to God.

Have I grown old because I separate myself from God and others? What made me grow old?  
How do I keep my heart ever young like Mary, pure and simple?

### God dwells in a heart in love with the Word

Mary believed that the angel message to her was the Word of God, The very Word of God gives life in her womb.

Mary must have introduced and taught the Word of God to Jesus as a child. Mary made her life beautiful, allowing the Word of God realized in her life not only giving way to Jesus' birth but even at the hour of Jesus' death. She pondered all the events in Jesus' life in her heart that made her stand firm. God continues to dwell in us through his Word. The Bible contains the Word of God that tells about

story of God and the people he loves. Jesus dwells in the Word of God. He is the Word. Jesus like to stay in our family through his Word.

Do we spend time reading and praying the Word of God as a family?  
How can we give a special place to the Word of God or the Bible in our homes?

PHASE THREE RESPOND – with/ in my personal  
faith /community faith story

Jesus likes to dwell in our family, let us give him a special welcome. From the examples of Mary, we learn today how we can give a space to Jesus in our home. Which one do we want to become as a family this Christmas Season with the problem of pandemic? (filled with grace, forever young that is away from sin, in love on the Word of God or with the Bible) How do we do it?



### CLOSING PRAYER

**Father/Mother :** Our Lord and King is drawing near, O come, let us adore Him.

**All:** *Our Lord and King is drawing near, O come, let us adore Him.*

**Eldest Child** Rejoice, O you daughter of Sion and exult fully, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, the Lord and Master comes, and there shall be a brilliant light in that day, ..

**All:** *Our Lord and King is drawing near, O come, let us adore Him.*

**Eldest Child:** Behold, the God-man of the house of David will come to sit upon the royal throne, and you will see Him and your heart will rejoice.

**All:** *O come, let us adore Him.*

**Eldest Child:** Behold, the Lord our Protector will come to save us, Israel's holy One, wearing the crown of royalty on His noble brow and He will exercise His rule from sea to shining sea, and from the waters of the river to the ends of the earth.

**All:** *O come, let us adore Him.*

**Eldest Child:** Bethlehem, city of the Most High God, from you will come forth the King of Israel,; and He will be greatly praised in the midst of the entire universe; and there will be peace in our land when He will have come.

**All:** *Our Lord and King is drawing near, O come, let us adore Him.* <https://www.catholicculture.org>

### BACKGROUND FOR THE CATECHISTS

**CCC 490** To become the mother of the Savior, Mary "was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to such a role."<sup>132</sup> The angel Gabriel at the moment of the annunciation salutes her as "full of grace".<sup>133</sup> In fact, in order for Mary to be able to give the free assent of her faith to the announcement of her vocation, it was necessary that she be wholly borne by God's grace.

