

Dear Padre,

Does the Bible say that Mary was in her sixth month of pregnancy at the Annunciation?

The announcement of Jesus' birth in Luke begins, "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...and the virgin's name was Mary" (Luke 1:26–27). This Scripture passage taken out of context could possibly give the impression that "in the sixth month" refers to Mary. However, it refers to Mary's cousin Elizabeth, who was in the sixth month of her pregnancy with John the Baptist. The proper context is a few verses before this one that reads, "Elizabeth conceived, and she went into seclusion for five months" (Luke 1:24).

Regarding Mary's pregnancy, at the Annunciation, the angel Gabriel tells her, "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.... 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" (Luke 1:31, 35). Gabriel also informs Mary, "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" (Luke 1:36).

In general, women already in their sixth month of pregnancy would likely be aware of their condition, and it would not be easy to conceal from others. ●



Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 15	December 16	December 17	December 18	December 19	December 20	December 21
Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13	Gn 49:2, 8-10 Mt 1:1-17	Jer 23:5-8	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a	Is 7:10-14 Lk 1:26-38	Is 7:10-14 Rom 1:1-7 Mt 1:18-24
Mt 21:23-27						



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

There are many settings in which the Christian faith is considered absurd.... Yet, precisely for this reason, they are the places where our missionary outreach is desperately needed. A lack of faith is often tragically accompanied by the loss of meaning in life, the neglect of mercy, appalling violations of human dignity, the crisis of the family, and so many other wounds that afflict our society.

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 9, 2025



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent (A)

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10 / James 5:7-10 / Matthew 11:2-11



Say to the fearful of heart:

Be strong, do not fear!

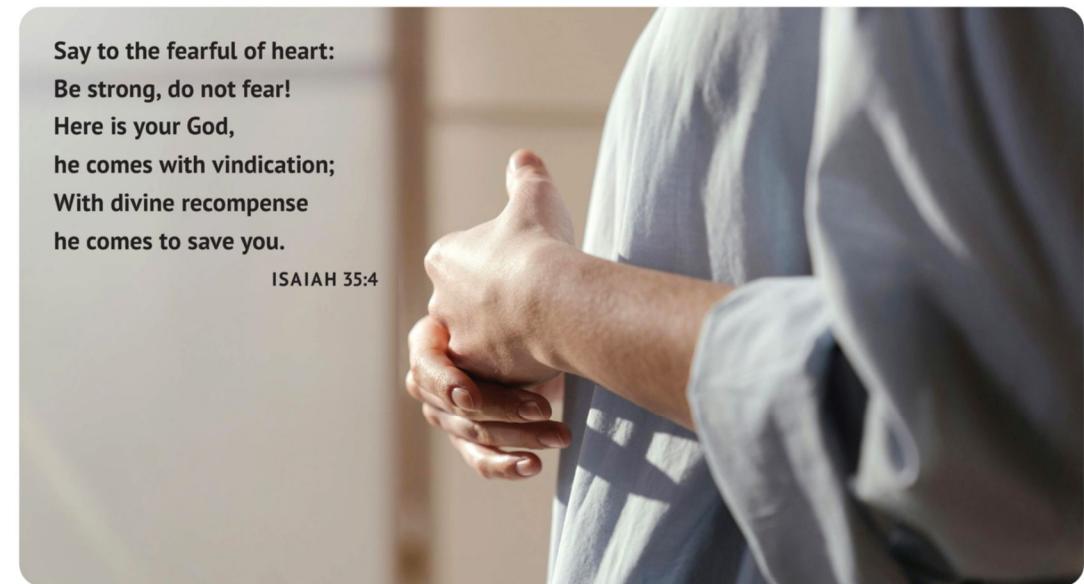
Here is your God,

he comes with vindication;

With divine recompense

he comes to save you.

ISAIAH 35:4



The Gift of Questions

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSsR

We sometimes imagine that a sign of a strong faith is firm conviction and freedom from doubt. However, despite our imaginings, the authentic experiences of saints and ordinary people alike seem to point in another direction. The question of John the Baptist today—"Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" (Matthew 11:3)—suggests that John is filled with questions, and these are important questions because they are asked from the depths of King Herod's prison, which is not exactly the place of idle musings or concerns.

If John, who is a great saint and a man who encountered Jesus and witnessed the powerful manifestation of the Holy Spirit at his baptism, can have a question, doesn't it suggest that questions are acceptable—perhaps even needed? Perhaps questioning is an indication of faithfulness, not a lack of faith. Questions do not suggest that something is missing; rather, they confirm that something is growing and developing. The Baptist could just have easily said, "Jesus, you are doing and saying more than I ever imagined possible. Please help me to understand," or, to quote an unnamed saint, "I do believe, help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24).

God will not shatter, and faith will not collapse, because you have questions or doubts.

Experience suggests that questions and doubts strengthen our belief and our commitment to a life of faith. ●

Reflect

Do I welcome questions, mine and others, as a way to grow in faith?



SCAN TO
LEARN ABOUT
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WELCOME! NO MATTER WHAT YOUR PRESENT OR PAST STATUS IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, NO MATTER YOUR PERSONAL HISTORY, AGE, RACE OR BACKGROUND, YOU ARE INVITED, WELCOMED, ACCEPTED, AND LOVED AT ST. GENEVIEVE CATHOLIC PARISH.

RECONCILIATION: (Confession) available, following Mass, on Sunday and Wednesday – please contact Fr. Pedro, before mass, to confirm availability. Also, by appointment. **ALSO 5 PM on Thursday December 18**
BAPTISM: Please contact the Deacon or Pastor, [at least one month](#) prior to desired date.
SACRAMENT of MARRIAGE: Please contact the Deacon or Pastor [at least six months](#) prior to desired date.

Please remember St. Genevieve Parish in your Will
THANK YOU for your donations!

Weekly Budget: \$1,255.00
11/30/25: \$778.00
12/07/25: \$1,459.00
Building Fund Donations: \$150.00

***** UPCOMING EVENTS *****

Thurs, Dec 18, Advent Reconciliation Service, 5:00 PM
Wed, Dec 24, Christmas Eve Vigil Mass, 4:00 PM
Thurs, Dec 25, Christmas Day Mass, 11:00 AM
Wed, Dec 31, No Mass
Thurs, Jan 1, Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God,



BUILDING COMMITTEE

People with ideas about the new parish hall, especially those with building skills, are welcome to Contact the Building Committee.

PARENTS: Please do not allow your children to play on/around the new block retaining wall. Thank you!



The Cove is, again, in need of toilet paper. Donations can be left in the basket at the side door.

MANGER MALL THANKS YOU for your donations of presents!

Mass Schedule:

Sunday, Dec 14 @ 11:00 am, Third Sunday of Advent,
Rosary @ 10:20 am
Wednesday, Dec 10 @ 9:30 am, Rosary 9:00 am
Thursday, Dec 18 starting @ 5:00 pm Reconciliation with three Priests
Sunday, Dec 21 @ 11:00 am, Fourth Sunday of Advent,
Rosary @ 10:20 am. CHURCH DECORATING after Mass



Liturgy of the Word

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10 The desert will bloom.
Psalm 146 “Lord, come and save us.”
James 5:7-10 Be patient like a farmer waiting for spring.
Matthew 11:2-11 In prison, John received word of the coming of Christ.

The powerful imagery in Isaiah's poetry overwhelms us with joy on this Gaudete Sunday. Deserts bloom with abundant flowers! Parched land exults in joyful song! The blind will see, the deaf will hear, and those who cannot walk will leap like a stag! In this season of watchful preparation for the Lord's coming into our lives, may we recognize his transformative presence in our world as we long for the coming of the kingdom, when all this and more will be fulfilled.

Question of the Week: If I am honest with myself, what part of Jesus' message offends me?



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Please remember Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington Christmas Collection
Scan the QR code or go to www.donateCCEW.org, or just write a check to Catholic Charities Eastern Washington, and put it into the collection basket.

WANTED: Strong (young) men, able to leap tall buildings in a single bound, (carry and climb ladders) **for Decorating the Church for Christmas,**
WHEN: after Mass next week:



HOPE | LOVE | JOY | PEACE



Many Thanks to St. Nicholas for his visit and to the Altar Society for Caffeine and Lots of Calories!



“The desert will bloom.”



Please Remember in Your Prayers

Wannita Knox
Malachi Knox
John Spannuth
Joseph Carbajal
Mark Crum
Roland Cruz
Duncan Bronson
Jim Perra
Brooke Stendera
Lupe Garcia
Bill Wilburn
Sheila Kerr
Jonathan Kessler
Fr. Sean Thomson
Thomson Family
Evangeline Grace Knox
Melissa Larson
Howard Burcham
Terry & Barb Anderson
Bernice Morgan



Repose of the Soul of