

DECEMBER 8, 2014



SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



GENESIS 3:9–15, 20

PSALM 98:1, 2–3, 3–4

EPHESIANS 1:3–6, 11–12

LUKE 1:26–38

REFLECTION

When there's something difficult to do, is your first instinct to say no? Does it depend on who is asking? In today's Gospel, Mary is asked to do a really difficult thing that's confusing and scary—and she probably didn't completely understand what she was being asked. *And she gets asked by an angel!*

This solemnity celebrates Mary. Because God would choose her to be the mother of Jesus he protected her from Original Sin even before she was born. This is called the Immaculate (no Original Sin) Conception.

Mary's "yes" to God is set in contrast with the Original Sin of Adam and Eve who rejected the will of God. But let's get back to you. Can you think of a time when you were more like Adam and Eve than Mary? When you knew what the right thing was but you did the wrong thing? You may not be able to undo that decision, but you can pray to have courage like Mary's so next time you can say "yes" to the right thing.

ACTION

Think about the ways you can say "yes" to God. Make a change this week. You might decide to pray more frequently. Maybe you invite a friend to Mass or to Eucharistic adoration, or you decide to volunteer at a local soup kitchen. Give yourself freely to God!

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

● There are lots of songs and reflections about Mary being meek and mild but she must also have been incredibly strong and courageous. Read Mary's prayer in Luke 1:46–54 called the Magnificat. She sounds more like a revolutionary. Imagine you could bring a teenage Mary to your school and tell everyone she was your cousin here. Based on the *Magnificat* what do you think she would have to say to or about some of the things and people? Who might she stick up for and who would she stand up to?



MYSTERIES

DANIELLE ROSE
(2004)
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PUBLICATIONS

Music missionary and youth minister Danielle Rose has composed a new, musical way for praying the Rosary. Songs are provided for all twenty mysteries of the Rosary! It's available as a two-disk CD collection or MP3 download. Listen to a sample of "Let it be Done Unto Me": at www.wlp.jspaluch.com/download/007565-002.mp3.