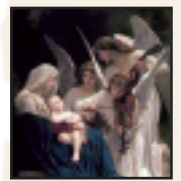


4 When Joseph returned to marry the **Virgin**, he perceived she was with child and decided to divorce her privately. While meditating on this, an angel appeared to him in a dream: “Do not entertain any suspicion of the **Virgin** being guilty of fornication; for that which is conceived in her is not the work of a man, but the **Holy Spirit**; for she is that only **Virgin** who will bring forth the **Son of God.**” Then Joseph took the **Virgin** and **did not know her, but kept her in chastity.**

When Annas, the scribe (*Jn. 18:13*), realized the **Virgin** was with child, he told the priest. Joseph and Mary were brought to trial and **forced** to drink the water of the Lord—water mixed with **bloody dust** from the floor of the altar; if guilty of fornication, they would swell and rot (*Num. 5:11-31*). Joseph was sent to the mountains; but when he returned perfectly well, the priest sent them away **uncondemned.**

Joseph and Mary returned to Bethlehem to be taxed. Before arriving Mary was in pain to deliver. Joseph left her with his sons in a cave and went to find a midwife. As he was going, he saw an **astounding vision**—everything stood still: birds stopped in flight; people were sitting at a table, stopped, with their eyes fixed upward. Then a Hebrew midwife came down the hill and asked, “Where are you going?” Joseph replied, “I seek a midwife. Mary, who was educated in the temple and fell to my lot and is not my wife, but is engaged to me, has conceived by the **Holy Ghost** and is in a cave ready to deliver.” When they arrived, a **bright cloud overshadowed the cave which became a great Light that no one could look upon.** When the **Light** disappeared, the **infant** was at the breast of his mother.



Later, the **midwife** Salome (*Mk. 16:1*) came to the cave. She said to Mary, “**Show yourself** for a great controversy has arisen over you.” Salome **examined** Mary; and after receiving **satisfaction** that **Mary’s virginity was intact, yet she had given birth**, her hand became withered. Salome groaned bitterly, repenting of tempting the Lord. Then an angel told her to carry the **infant** and her hand was restored.

5 Wise men came from the east, asking, “**Where is the king of the Jews born? We have seen his star and come to worship him.**” King Herod called the priests, “**Where is Christ the king to be born?**” They replied, “In Bethlehem.” This troubled Herod; but he told the wise men, “When you find the **child**, bring me word that I may also worship him.” The wise men found **Jesus**, worshiped him with an offering of **gold, frankincense, and myrrh**, and then were warned in a dream not to return to Herod. Realizing he had been deceived, Herod ordered all the children in Bethlehem two and under to be **killed.** Joseph took Mary and fled into Egypt.

Herod sent his soldiers to Zacharias, thinking, “Is not his son likely to be **king in Israel?**” His wife Elizabeth took the infant John and fled to the hills. When Zacharias would not give them his son, they murdered him at the altar. His body was never found, only his **blood** hard like a stone. The prophet Simeon was chosen to succeed him. The **Holy Spirit** had revealed to him that he would not see death until he had seen **Christ come in the flesh.** He had dedicated the infant **Jesus** and told Mary, “**Your child is destined to be a sign that will be spoken against; and a sword will pierce through your soul**” (*Lk. 2:35*).

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY WITH YOUR PRAYERS, DEFEAT SATAN’S PLANS!

A Message from the Queen of Hearts and Souls
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The Gospel of the Birth of the Virgin Mary
THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
The First Good News: “Mary” and the “Protevangelion”



The Lost Books of the Bible

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY IS CELEBRATED DECEMBER 8TH; HER BIRTH SEPTEMBER 8TH

Mary has been calling the world to prayer from Medjugorje (Med.) since 1981 (card 15).

MARY WAS CONCEIVED IMMACULATE—BORN “FULL OF THE GRACE OF THE LORD”

“You are all beautiful my beloved, and there is no blemish in you” (*Songs 4:7*).

Golden Gate

“MY WISH IS FOR YOU TO PURIFY YOUR HEARTS.” (*Med. 1/29/84*)

“PEACE! BE RECONCILED WITH GOD AND EACH OTHER. PRAY, FAST, CONFESS.” (*Med. 6/26/81*)

“WITH MOTHERLY LOVE, I DESIRE TO OPEN THE HEART OF EACH OF YOU AND TO TEACH YOU PERSONAL UNITY WITH THE FATHER. YOU ARE IMPORTANT TO GOD, WHO IS CALLING YOU INDIVIDUALLY. LOVE IS THE WAY YOU MUST SET OUT—LOVE FOR GOD AND NEIGHBOR.” (*Med. 4/2/11*)

FAST: 1 MODERATE MEAL AND 2 OF BREAD AND WATER OR SACRIFICE

MARY’S PARENTS rejoicing at the **Golden Gate** after an angel announced the good news: “You will give birth to a daughter named Mary. She will be blessed above all women and **upon birth FULL OF THE GRACE OF THE LORD**” (*Mary 3:1-3*).

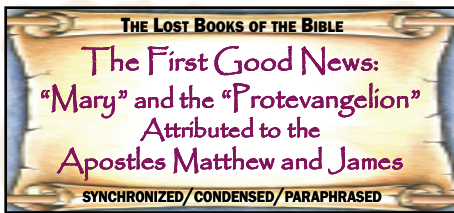
“My soul is seeking those souls with whom it desires to be one—those who understand the importance of prayer for those who have not come to know the love of the Father. I need you. Accept the mission. Do not be afraid. I will strengthen you with my graces.” (*Med. 9/2/12*)

“In this time of renunciation, prayer, and penance, I call you anew: go and confess your sins so that grace may open your hearts and permit it to change you. Convert, open yourselves to God and His plan for you.” (*Med. 2/25/09*)

“Everyday I pray for your shepherds. I expect the same out of you.” (*Med. 6/2/12*)

PRAY, FAST, AND RENOUNCE WORLDLY LIFE SO GOD’S PLANS CAN BE FULFILLED FOR YOUR LIFE.

“**DEAR CHILDREN**, I am among you because with my endless love, I desire to show you the door of Heaven and tell you how it opens—through goodness, mercy, love, and peace—**through my Son.** Do not waste time on vanities. Only His love can save you. Through His saving love and the Holy Spirit, He chose me, and I, together with Him, am choosing you to be apostles of His love and will. Great is this responsibility upon you. By your example help sinners regain their sight. Pray, fast, confess regularly. If receiving my Son in *Communion* is the center of your life, then do not be afraid, you can do everything” (*Med. 6/2/12*).



1 **THE VIRGIN MARY**, most blessed and ever glorious, sprang from the **royal race** and family of David, the son of **Jesse**. Her parents lived in Nazareth, Galilee, and were wealthy, but **renounced worldly life**. They had been married twenty years and had no

children, **but vowed that any child born to them would be devoted to the service of the Lord**. On feast days they would go to the temple to offer **prayers** and **alms**. On one occasion the high priest Reuben (*Issachar*) publicly opposed her father for not having children and refused his offering. **“Cursed is everyone who shall not beget a male child,”** the priest told Joachim. “You should first be free of that **curse** by having a child and then come with your offering into the presence of God.”

Joachim was too humiliated to return home; all of his neighbors had heard the words of the high priest. So he retired among his flocks, **fasting**, leaving his wife Anna alone and worried. After forty days an angel stood by him, “Joachim, I am sent to inform you that your **alms** and **prayers** have ascended before God. Anna will give birth to a daughter named **Mary**; and according to your **vow**, she will be **devoted** to the Lord from her infancy and **filled with the Holy Spirit from her mother’s womb**. Nothing common or unclean shall come near her; therefore, she must be brought up in the temple to protect her from the outside world (*worldly life*). For as she is born in a miraculous manner to one who was barren, so she will, **while yet a virgin**, give birth to the **Son of God, the Father**, who will be called **Jesus**, the **Savior** of all nations. And as a **sign** of the truth of these things, go to the **Golden Gate** in Jerusalem, your wife will be waiting there for you.”

Afterward, an angel stood by Anna as she was crying, “Anna, I am the angel who has offered up your **prayers** and **alms** before God; and am now sent to inform you that you will give birth to a daughter named **Mary**. **She will be blessed above all women and immediately upon her birth full of the grace of the Lord**. When she is weaned, you will bring her to the temple to serve the Lord in **fasting** and **prayer**. She will **never** know any man; but while a **virgin**, she will give birth to a **Son**, the **Lord**, who by his **grace, Name, and works** will be the **Savior** of the world. As a **sign** of the truth of my words, go to the **Golden Gate** in Jerusalem, you will meet your husband there.” Both of them left where they were and met at the **Golden Gate** as **predicted** by the angel and rejoiced at the **good news!**



Anna consecrated Mary’s nursery, making it a holy place. She allowed nothing common or unclean to come near her. On her birthdays Joachim would invite the priest and people to celebrate and bless her. As **vowed**, when Mary was weaned, her parents brought her to the temple, where she danced with grace up the 15 steps. The high priest blessed her, saying, **“Mary, the Lord has magnified your name to all generations . . . by you will He show His redemption to Israel.”** She grew up in Jerusalem and was educated with the other virgins. Everyday she had conversations with angels, who preserved her from evil. She was loved by all.

“Behold a Virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and His name shall be called Emmanuel—‘God with us’” (*Isa. 7:14*).

2 When Mary was twelve, the high priest Zacharias made an order that all of the virgins were to return home to marry. All the virgins readily yielded obedience, but Mary, the Virgin of the Lord, alone answered, **“I will not comply, my parents devoted me to the service of the Lord; and I have vowed virginity to the Lord, which vow I am resolved never to break by lying with a man.”**



This was a difficult matter: The Scriptures say to **vow** and **pay** (*Jdg. 11:30-40*), but with the onset of puberty, Mary would defile the temple (*Lev. 15:19-23*). Zacharias called a council; as they prayed, he consulted God. A voice came from the Ark of the Covenant and the Mercy Seat: “There shall come forth a **rod** (*staff*) out of the stem of **Jesse**, and a **flower** shall spring out of its root, and the **Spirit of the Lord** shall rest upon him” (*Isa. 11:1-2*).

Zacharias ordered all marriageable men from the Family of David, the son of **Jesse**, to bring their family rods to the altar, stating, “On one of the **rods** a **flower** should bud and the **Spirit of the Lord in the form of a Dove** should sit on top (*Nu. 17*). This is whom the **Virgin** should be given to in marriage to **keep her a virgin** for the Lord.” When none of the rods budded, it was discovered that Joseph had secretly refused to turn in his rod, saying, **“I am old and have children and Mary is young; and I fear that I will look ridiculous in Israel.”** Zacharias threatened him with a **curse**. When **Joseph’s rod budded** and the **Dove** flew on his head, he became engaged to Mary. After the customary ceremonies, Joseph returned to his home in Bethlehem to prepare for the marriage.

JOSEPH AND MARY lived under a binding contract: They were engaged, but never finalized their wedding vows. Though they lived in a chaste relationship, Joseph protected and provided for Mary—he was her covering. Mary loved, honored, and subjected herself to her most beloved husband with all respect as unto God.



3 Mary was sent home to her parents’. She was allotted the task of spinning the **true purple thread** for the new temple veil. First, the Archangel Gabriel appeared to Zacharias to announce the birth of his son, John the Baptist. But when **he did not believe it** because he and his wife Elizabeth were old, the angel struck him dumb. Then while Mary was spinning thread, Gabriel appeared, filling the room with a prodigious light, he **saluted** her, **“Hail Mary! Virgin of the Lord! O Virgin full of grace! The Lord is with you. You will conceive. You are blessed above all women, you are blessed above all men.”** Angels were common to Mary; but she was perplexed by this **salutation**. Assuringly, he said, “Don’t worry, Mary, I did not intend anything inconsistent with your **vow of chastity**. You have found favor with the **Lord** because you made **virginity** your choice. While you are a **virgin**, you will **conceive without sin** (*lust*) and give birth to the **Son of God**.”



Mary replied, **not unbelieving**, but willing to know the manner of it, “How can that be? **For I have vowed to never know a man**. How can I bear a child without the addition of a man’s seed?” The angel said, “The **Holy Spirit** will come upon you and the power of the **Most High Father** will overshadow you. Therefore, that which will be born of you will be the **Holy Son of God**. Nothing is impossible with **God**.” Mary, **submitting** to the words of the angel, said, **“Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word.”**