

December 20, 2020

CHRISTMAS

BEGINS WITH

Christ



St. Mark's Catholic Church

Rev. Msgr. Sean P. Flynn, Pastor

Rev. José Fernandez-Bangueses, Resident Priest

Rev. Bernard N. Mohan (*Wednesday and Friday*)

Deacon Michael Keary

215 Crescent Pkwy, Sea Girt, NJ 08750 Phone 732-449-6364 Web: www.stmarkseagirt.com



Dear Parishioners,

I pray that during the remainder of this Advent season we will all take some time out of our busy schedules and from all our material preparations to prepare ourselves spiritually for Christmas and to reflect on the true meaning of and full significance of this wonderful feast. This year has truly been a year like no other, one which we will never forget.

We wish to thank all of those who have been attending Mass regularly and following the safety protocols which we have in place. We also thank those who are following the Masses online. While watching online is very commendable it is not the same as attending personally, as you cannot receive the Eucharist. While the obligation to attend Sunday Mass is still suspended, I would encourage those who do not belong to one of those categories who for health reasons are recommended to stay home; to seriously consider coming back to Church. The Church is strictly following all the recommended safety protocols to protect you from the virus. While the Diocese does not permit us to distribute printed bulletins at Mass, we are receiving a limited number each week. So if you do not have a computer or iPhone which enables you to access the weekly bulletin and the Mass on line please call the rectory and we will mail you one.

The Christmas Masses this year will be at 3PM, 5PM and 8PM on Christmas Eve and at 8AM, 10AM and 12Noon on Christmas Day. Due to the attendance limitations imposed on us for each Mass by the need to practice safe social distancing and by the State regulations, we hope that most people will not all want to attend one particular Mass. We hope that all the Masses will be equally well attended, so that no one has to be turned away from a particular Mass, especially on Christmas Eve.

We wish to thank all of you who have so generously continued to financially support the parish each week. We are most grateful to all those who have given so unselfishly of your time, talents and resources to St. Mark's and to its many different ministries and organizations throughout the past year. We would ask you to be particularly generous in your donation this Christmas, as we use the Christmas collection to help pay some of our major expenses. This year while our income has been significantly reduced we have had major expenses including paying someone to sanitize the Church after every Mass, baptism and funeral.

We pray that the Lord will reward and bless you for your very generous support of the parish and that He will continue to protect you and all your loved ones from the virus. On behalf of Father Jose, Deacon Mike and myself, along with the entire parish staff we wish you all a very blessed Christmas. I pray that the Christ Child will indeed come into your hearts in a very special way this Christmas, and that you will experience His peace, love and joy not only at Christmas, but throughout the coming year.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. Sean P. Flynn

This Week's Mass Intentions



Date	Intention	Requested by
Monday, December 21		
7:30 AM	† Walter Schier	Geri Zalom
11:00AM	† Elvira Caraselli	Rose Ann and Robert Ferguson
	† Mary and Vincent J. Brennan, Sr.	Marilyn and Bob Healey
Tuesday, December 22		
7:30 AM	† Ralph Williams, Sr.	Shohfi and Pepe Families
11:00AM	† Mildred Parkhill	The Parkhill Family
	† Vickie Venditti	Connie Duffy
Wednesday, December 23		
7:30 AM	In Thanksgiving for Baby Sean	Don Sabatini
11:00AM	† Emory C. Smith	Betsy Smith
	June and George Truesdale and Family	Anne Lintner
Thursday, December 24 Christmas Eve		
7:30 AM	† Deceased Members of Passalacqua Family	Family
	† Carol Treger	Estate
1:00	Cira Toralba, (Special Intention)	Children and Family
	† Alberto Espinoza Toscano	Breatriz Espinoza
3:00 PM	† Stephen J. Bohacik	Family
	† Cathy Mulvaney	Mulvaney Family
	† Tom Critchley	Family
5:00 PM	† Edward Salantrie	Stillo Family
	† Grace M. Salandra	Family
	† Jack Shine	Meg and John (Walsh) Albanese
8:00 PM	† Florence and Louis Beneduce	Family
Friday, December 25 The Nativity of the Lord		
8:00 AM	People of the Parish	
10:00 AM	† Robert Phillips	Pat Phillips
	100th Birthday Brendan Heslin	Rita Carbone Ciocca
	† John Langeveld	Saint Mark's Parish Family
12 Noon	† Madonna Saake	Family
	† Eugene Keller	Maryann Keller and Children
2:00 PM	† Carlos Benitez	Saint Mark's Parish Family
	† Maria del Carmen Cartagena	Family
	Lopez Cruz Family (Special Intention)	Family

Please note: Sunday and holiday Mass times have changed due to Covid. If you have a mass intention, please be sure to check the times. If you have any questions, please call the office.

This Week's Mass Intentions



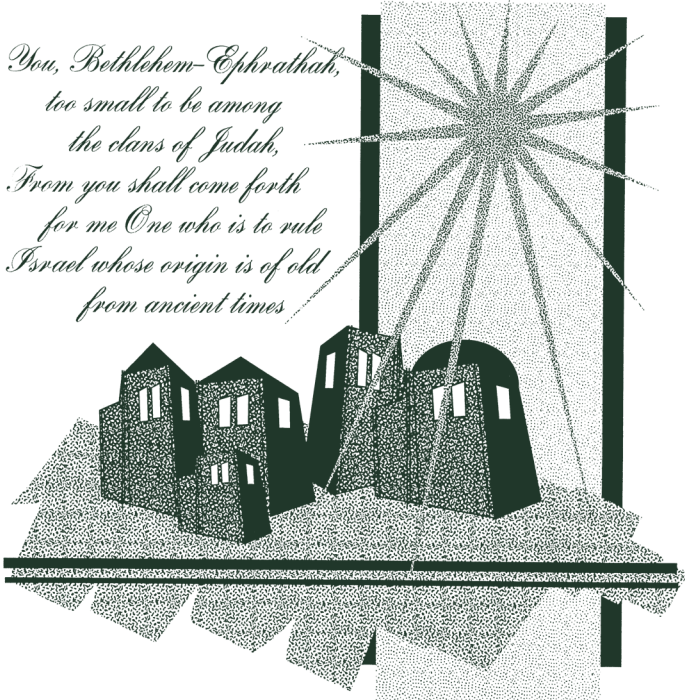
Date	Intention	Requested by
Saturday, December 26		
7:30 AM	† Ted Duffy	Mr. and Mrs. Sernitsky
4:30 PM	50th Wedding Anniversary Gordon and Peggy Pingicer	Saint Mark's Parish Family
	† Margaret Ann Gallo	Ilze and Walter Henry
	† Lee Ann Duffy	John and Pat Gibbs
Sunday, December 27 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph		
8:00 AM	† Deceased Members Azzarella and Callahan Family	Peg Azzarella
	† Olga O'Reilly	Friend
	† Dolores Randazzo	Judy and Gene Mulvaney
10:00 AM	People of the Parish	
	† Flynn Family	Jerry Flynn
	† Robert (Beau) Truesdale	Kavanagh Family
	† Victoria Margadonna	Joe and Claire Verruni
5:00 PM	Maria Valdez, (Special Intention)	Family and Friends
	† Silviano Ramirez	Daughter and Family
	Private Intention, (Special Intention)	Family



Christmas Offering envelopes are available at the entrances to the church.

We ask you to be especially generous in your Christmas donation this year. We use this collection to help pay some of our larger expenses. While our income has been significantly reduced this year due to the pandemic, we have had some extra expenses including paying someone to sanitize the church after every mass, baptism, and funeral. Thank you

*You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah,
too small to be among
the clans of Judah,
From you shall come forth
for me One who is to rule
Israel whose origin is of old
from ancient times*



Please join us on Friday's for
Adoration immediately after 11:00
AM Mass with Benediction at 1:45
PM. It will also be broadcast on
livestream @ stmarkseagirt.com



Readings for the Week December 20, 2020

Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14; Lk 1:57-66

Thursday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79

Friday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or Mt 1:18-25

Midnight: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17; Mt 10:17-22

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 or Col 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 or Lk 2:22, 39-40



Thank You! We are so grateful to all those who financially sacrifice each week to support our parish and its ministries!

We would especially like to thank all of those who faithfully use their weekly parish contribution envelopes and those who give online through the Parish Giving Program.

The LORD
our **GOD**
is near!

Pray FOR THE SICK

The list of parishioners, relatives, and friends are in need of your prayers for healing. Note to ensure the consent of the person whose name appears here, the pastor's policy requires that only they or a family member may request a name be added to this list. Also if you or a loved one are unable to attend mass and would like to receive Holy Communion in a home or assisted living, please notify **Donna at 732-449-6364 ext. 100.**

Benjamin Ohlweiler

Jeremy Pavlick

Lucy Gargano

Julia Buonocore

Fred Buonocore

Christine Frauenheim

Alexandra Gavilanes

Sarah Gallagher

Jimmy Azzollini

Vivian Wilson

Ken Hauck

Dorothy Waugh

Patricia Cavanaugh

Rose Courtney

Grace Philhower

Jim Bogan

Maria Valdez

Ani Slevin

*Eternal Rest grant unto them, O Lord, And
let perpetual light shine upon them.*

**Please remember in your prayers those
of our diocese, parish, friends, and
family members who have recently died.**

† *Karola (Mickey) Fox*

† *Christopher Schneider*

† *William Muscato*

May the angels lead you into paradise...



We would like to thank all those who have attended Mass the past few weeks, who wore a mask and adhered to the social distancing requirements. We

wish to remind those who are afraid to come to Mass because of health issues, that the dispensation from Sunday and Holy Day obligation will remain in effect until further notice.

Any parishioner who has not been able to attend Mass and would like to have a Eucharistic Minister bring Holy Communion to them, please contact Donna at the rectory, 732-449-6364 x100 or email donna@stmarkseagirt.com

If you know someone who doesn't have access to the internet and would like a copy of the bulletin, please reach out to the Rectory at 732-449-6364.

Christmas Mass Schedule



Christmas Eve

1:00 PM Spanish Mass.

3:00 PM Mass with contemporary Christmas Carols.

5:00 PM Mass with contemporary Christmas Carols.

8:00 PM Traditional "Midnight" Mass with traditional Christmas Carols.

Christmas Day

8:00 AM Traditional Christmas Carols.

10:00 AM Mass with contemporary Christmas Carols.

12 Noon Mass with traditional Christmas Carols.

2:00 PM Spanish Mass.



Christmas Flower Memorial envelopes are now available at the entrances to the church.

It's a beautiful way to celebrate the birth of our Savior and to remember a loved one on Christmas!

Blessing of a Christmas Manger or Nativity Scene



In its present form the custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Jesus Christ owes its origin to St. Francis of Assisi, who made the Christmas crèche or manger for Christmas Eve of 1223.

The blessing of the Christmas manger or nativity scene may take place on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time.

When the manger is set up in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another family member.

All make the sign of the cross as the leader says:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

R/. Who made heaven and earth.

One of those present or the leader reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example, Luke 2:1 (lines 1-8) or Isaiah 7:10 (lines 10-15, the birth of Emmanuel).

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The leader prays with hands joined:

God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love.

Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever.

R/. Amen.

—*From Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers*

*The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
and Christmas comes once more.*



ONLINE GIVING SIMPLIFIED.

Your generosity and support helps our parish grow in faith, love and support.

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for information and to sign up.

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Code with your smartphone
for easy, secure online giving.
Thank you!



Parish Giving offers secure flexible online giving for our parishioners who would like to make their donations online using a credit card or bank transfer. You never have to bring cash or checks to church. Giving electronically also helps the church save money and plan the budget. Check out the website listed for benefits and details.

613 St. Mark Sea Girt NJ 08750



God sent
His only
Son to earth
to save us,
because He
loves us!

John 3:16-17

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Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

Christmas and Connectedness. They go together like salt and pepper, or any other pleasant duo you might conjure. The First and Third Readings, as usual, are a connected pair and they draw the picture. In 2 Samuel we read that King David is told by the prophet Nathan that God will establish a dynasty from him that will last forever. The Gospel recounts the visit of the Archangel Gabriel to Mary, in which he announces God's plan for her, and adds that her Son will inherit David's throne and reign forever.

St. Luke goes on to draw a parallel with the annunciation of Jesus' cousin John the Baptist. Pieces long apart in the Old Testament are joined to the New. Connections are established and made clear.

All of this leads to a dimension of our celebration of Christmas that we might not think of right away. It makes for a delightful consequence of these prime facts. There are connections galore. Chief among them is God's connection with us. From that we see all kinds of connections between ourselves and others.

Obvious from the start is the evidence that God wants to be part of our lives, even though He has no need to be. He took on our very nature, humbling Himself and becoming "like us in all things but sin," as one of our Eucharistic prayers asserts. We're so used to hearing that and accepting it that the full impact of God's decision gets diminished. By itself, it is astounding. No wonder the choirs of angels sang out their "Glorias!"

As for our connectedness with one another is concerned, just look at the magnetic power of family at this time of year. The late Perry Como sang all about it when he proclaimed that "there's no place like home for the holidays." That's why the radio stations dust off this familiar "oldie" to play it at this time. Home is truly where the heart is, and those who have the same surname are drawn to it from faraway places as the lyrics of the song witness. So, we join our siblings, however different in type and temperament they may be from us, because of those non-perishable parental bonds.

Another powerful impetus engineers our connections with friends. They are one of life's treasures, as Ecclesiastes tells us. We dare not forget it. So we connect with them, either by way of a call or a card or "Face time" or "Skype."

Finally we remember at Holy Christmas Mass that connectedness to God, which is, as we say it these days, "hard wired" in us. That is why we missed the Eucharist at the height of the current pandemic. It is so humbling to think that God took the initiative here, is it not? That is the authentic joy of Christmas. May it be yours this Christmas and always!

*Blessed are you among women
and blessed is the fruit
of your womb*

MARY
MOTHER OF GOD

Prayer to Jesus for Coronavirus Healing

Jesus Christ You traveled through towns and villages curing every disease and illness. At Your command the sick were made well. Come to our aid now in the midst of the global spread of the corona virus, that we may experience your healing love. Heal those who are sick with the virus, may they regain their strength and health through quality medical care. Heal us from our fear which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another.

Carry in Your arms those who have died from the virus and bring them home. Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. May they know Your Peace. Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who put themselves at risk in serving the sick. May they know your protection. Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they were meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long term solutions to help prevent future outbreaks. Our Lord Jesus stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us Your Peace. Jesus Christ heal us. Amen

Catholic Charities News

Community Services is Catholic Charities' link to parishes in the Trenton diocese. Serving families in crises, we provide food, mortgage, rent and utilities assistance, temporary housing, counseling, and immigration services. To learn more about Catholic Charities Community Services visit our You Tube presentation. Click on: <https://youtu.be/-r8YRyPCIY4> If you know of anyone needing assistance, please contact Catholic Charities at 800-360-7711.

Save-the-Date for the 2021 Bishop's Anniversary Blessing Events

To ensure that all 2020 anniversary couples are able to receive our bishop's personal blessing for the milestone anniversaries of 1 year, 25 years and 50 or more years, Bishop O'Connell extends his invitation to all couples celebrating their 1st or 2nd, 25th or 26th, or 50th or more anniversary in 2021 to the Bishop's Anniversary Blessing events to be held on Sunday, October 10 for Monmouth County Parishes. *Registration will be available in July 2021.* Visit <https://dioceseoftrenton.org/building-strong-marriages>



St. Mark's Altar Rosary Society

St. Mark's Altar Rosary Society will be reciting the rosary after the 11am mass on the first Monday of each month.

We invite those that cannot make it to church, to join us from home in the recitation of the rosary. In this way we continue to honor our Blessed Mother and follow her directions to continue praying for an end to abortion and all the intentions of her Immaculate Heart.


St. Mark's would like to let our Parishioners know what practices we have in place to protect them during the pandemic so



that they can make informed decisions on whether they feel they would like to attend in person Masses. Social distancing with roped off pews which allows those present to sit at least 6 feet apart, all pews, door handles and railings are sanitized after every Mass daily and during the weekend Masses and Sacraments, sanitizer is at the front and side entrances, bathrooms are cleaned and sanitized on a regular basis, masks must be worn by everyone in the church, the priests and Extraordinary Ministers use hand sanitizer before distributing Communion, Communion is distributed one side at a time to allow for social distance, the windows are open during Mass to help circulate air, collection baskets are placed on the Altar rail rather than the Ushers handling the collection, weekend requirement is entrance thru the front doors for Parishioner count but you may exit thru all doors.

If you have any questions please call the Rectory Office at 732-449-6364.

Please Note: At this time, because of Covid 19, we are not accepting clothing, or any personal books, devotionals, religious articles or Rosary beads. In the future we will gladly accept your donations, but at the present time and for the safety of all those concerned, we are asking that these items not be left at the church. Thank you.



Horario de Misas para Diciembre y Enero

Martes, Diciembre 24 1:00 PM

- Misa de la Natividad del Señor

Miércoles, Diciembre 25 2:00 PM

- Solemnidad de la Natividad del Señor- Misa del Día.

Miércoles, Enero 1 2:00 PM

- Solemnidad de Santa María Madre de Dios y Misa de Año Nuevo.

Para más información llamar a rectoría (732) 449-6364 ext. 104.

Iglesia de "San Marcos" Apostolado Hispano

Misa Dominical: Domingo 5:00 p.m.

Misa de Semana: Martes 6:00 p.m.

Msgr. Sean P. Flynn, Pastor
Rev. José Fernández-Banguesses,
Sacerdote Residente

josefernandez@stmarkscagirt.com
Teléfono: (732) 449-6364 ext. 122.

Horario de oficina en Español:
Lunes, Miércoles y Viernes 9:00 AM-3:00 PM
Andrea Martinez, Apostolado Hispano
liz@stmarkscagirt.com
Teléfono: (732) 449-6364 ext. 104.
Fax: (732) 449-1646

Directora del Ministerio de Religión
Diana Zuna Nieves
diana@stmarkscagirt.com
Teléfono: (732) 449-6364 ext. 105

Cuarto Domingo de Adviento ~ Diciembre 20, 2020

Primera lectura: 2 Samuel 7, 1-5. 8b-12. 14a. 16.

Tan pronto como el rey David se instaló en su palacio y el Señor le concedió descansar de todos los enemigos que lo rodeaban, el rey dijo al profeta Natán: "¿Te has dado cuenta de que yo vivo en una mansión de cedro, mientras el arca de Dios sigue alojada en una tienda de campaña?" Natán le respondió: "Anda y haz todo lo que te dicte el corazón, porque el Señor está contigo". Aquella misma noche habló el Señor a Natán y le dijo: "Ve y dile a mi siervo David que el Señor le manda decir esto: '¿Piensas que vas a ser tú el que me construya una casa, para que yo habite en ella? Yo te saqué de los apriscos y de andar tras las ovejas, para que fueras el jefe de mi pueblo, Israel. Yo estaré contigo en todo lo que emprendas, acabaré con tus enemigos y te haré tan famoso como los hombres más famosos de la tierra. Le asignaré un lugar a mi pueblo, Israel; lo plantaré allí para que habite en su propia tierra. Vivirá tranquilo y sus enemigos ya no lo oprimirán más, como lo han venido haciendo desde los tiempos en que establecí jueces para gobernar a mi pueblo, Israel. Y a ti, David, te haré descansar de todos tus enemigos. Además, yo, el Señor, te hago saber que te daré una dinastía; y cuando tus días se hayan cumplido y descanses para siempre con tus padres, engrandeceré a tu hijo, sangre de tu sangre, y consolidaré su reino. Yo seré para él un padre y él será para mí un hijo. Tu casa y tu reino permanecerán para siempre ante mí, y tu trono será estable eternamente'".

Salmo Responsorial: Salmo 88, 2-3. 4-5. 27 y 29.

Proclamaré sin cesar la misericordia del Señor.

Proclamaré sin cesar la misericordia del Señor
y daré a conocer que su fidelidad es eterna,
pues el Señor ha dicho: "Mi amor es para siempre
y mi lealtad, más firme que los cielos.

Proclamaré sin cesar la misericordia del Señor.

Un juramento hice a David, mi servidor,
una alianza pacté con mi elegido:
'Consolidaré tu dinastía para siempre
y afianzaré tu trono eternamente'.

Proclamaré sin cesar la misericordia del Señor.

Él me podrá decir: 'Tú eres mi padre,
el Dios que me protege y que me salva'.
Yo jamás le retiraré mi amor,
ni violaré el juramento que le hice".

Proclamaré sin cesar la misericordia del Señor.

Segunda lectura: Romanos 16, 25-27.

Hermanos: A aquel que puede darles fuerzas para cumplir el Evangelio que yo he proclamado, predicando a Cristo, conforme a la revelación del misterio, mantenido en secreto durante siglos, y que ahora, en cumplimiento del designio eterno de Dios, ha quedado manifestado por las Sagradas Escrituras, para atraer a todas las naciones a la obediencia de la fe, al Dios único, infinitamente sabio, démosle gloria, por Jesucristo, para siempre. Amén.

Aclamación antes del Evangelio: Lucas 1, 38.

R. Aleluya, aleluya.
Yo soy la esclava del Señor;
que se cumpla en mí lo que me has dicho.
R. Aleluya.

Evangelio: Lucas 1, 26-38.

En aquel tiempo, el ángel Gabriel fue enviado por Dios a una ciudad de Galilea, llamada Nazaret, a una virgen desposada con un varón de la estirpe de David, llamado José. La virgen se llamaba María. Entró el ángel a donde ella estaba y le dijo: "¡Alégrate, llena de gracia, el Señor está contigo". Al oír estas palabras, ella se preocupó mucho y se preguntaba qué querría decir semejante saludo. El ángel le dijo: "No temas, María, porque has hallado gracia ante Dios. Vas a concebir y a dar a luz un hijo y le pondrás por nombre Jesús. Él será grande y será llamado Hijo del Altísimo; el Señor Dios le dará el trono de David, su padre, y él reinará sobre la casa de Jacob por los siglos y su reinado no tendrá fin". María le dijo entonces al ángel: "¿Cómo podrá ser esto, puesto que yo permanezco virgen?" El ángel le contestó: "El Espíritu Santo descenderá sobre ti y el poder del Altísimo te cubrirá con su sombra. Por eso, el Santo, que va a nacer de ti, será llamado Hijo de Dios. Ahí tienes a tu parienta Isabel, que a pesar de su vejez, ha concebido un hijo y ya va en el sexto mes la que llamaban estéril, porque no hay nada imposible para Dios". María contestó: "Yo soy la esclava del Señor; cúmplase en mí lo que me has dicho". Y el ángel se retiró de su presencia.

