

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

As the moon shines with the light of the sun, so the immaculate splendour of Mary is totally relative to that of the Redeemer.
 Pope John Paul II



WHAT FEAST DAY DO WE CELEBRATE ON 25TH MARCH, NINE MONTHS BEFORE CHRISTMAS DAY?

ON DECEMBER 8TH WE CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION. IS THIS JESUS' OR MARY'S CONCEPTION?

WATCH THIS VIDEO FROM FR MIKE SCHMITZ, "THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION" (ASCENSION PRESENTS) AND REFLECT ON THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW



- What do most people think the dogma of the Immaculate Conception is about?
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DEFINITION: *The Immaculate Conception means that from the very first moment of her conception, Mary was preserved from all stain of O _____ S _____ by the merits of her Son's future I _____, d _____ and r _____.*

- Who is Mary's Saviour? _____

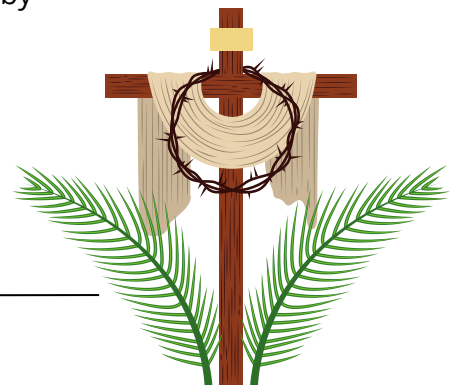


- Explain Fr Mike's **Dr Joe Johnson cure / vaccine analogy** in your own words. What are the two ways he could be seen as a "saviour"?
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-
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Did you know that Our Lady appeared to St Bernadette at Lourdes calling herself the Immaculate Conception? Find out more in our St Bernadette Gamechanger Resource!

- Christians are saved by Jesus at baptism, and continue to be saved by saying _____
 This happened *after the fact* of Original Sin being inherited.
- Mary was preserved by the _____ of her Son's _____ life, death and resurrection.
- What age was Mary believed to have been when she conceived Jesus? _____



But...

- How can this special grace Mary received apply to the past - if she received this grace years before Jesus' life, death and resurrection?
- **Answer:** God is outside of _____.

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- We can read about The Fall in Genesis Chapter ____.
- Jesus and Mary were the first man and woman conceived without original sin? True False
- Jesus is the New _____ and Mary is the New _____.

TEAM FALL:



An Angel of Light
(_____) came to a woman conceived without sin and spoke words to her which caused her to _____ and _____.

She says _____ to God.

She takes that _____ and hands it on to her _____ who hands it on to the whole world.

EVE IS THE MOTHER OF THE _____

TEAM REDEEM:

An Angel of Light
(_____) came to a woman conceived without sin and spoke words to her which caused her to _____ and _____.

She says _____ to God's message and _____ Him.

She takes that _____ and hands it on to the _____ conceived in her womb. He says _____ and hands on _____ to the whole world.

MARY IS THE MOTHER OF THE _____



But...

Why would God choose Mary to be part of his plan for salvation and cause her to be immaculately conceived?

- Answer: God **could** have saved us completely on His own, but God **chose** to use Mary!
- St Augustine said, "The God who willed to create you without you is not willing to redeem you without you." God wants us to work with Him.
- Where did Mary's power / goodness / strength come from? _____



MISSION!

GOD WILL NEVER ASK YOU TO DO MORE THAN HE ASKED OUR LADY, THE GREATEST SAINT IN HEAVEN. ALL HE ASKED OF HER WAS THAT SHE SAY "YES". TODAY, SAY "YES" TO WHATEVER GOD WANTS OF YOU - TRUSTING THAT HE HAS YOUR MAXIMUM HAPPINESS IN HIS PLAN. ASK OUR LADY FOR HELP TO BE OBEDIENT TO THE WILL OF GOD AND TO BELIEVE IN HIS FATHERLY HEART AND LOVE FOR YOU!



PRAYER TIME!

When Mary appeared to St Catherine Labouré at Rue du Bac in Paris in 1830, she asked for a medal to be created, with this prayer: "**O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you!**" The prayer prepared the way for the Marian dogma being declared in 1854, and four years later Our Lady appeared at Lourdes, calling herself "The Immaculate Conception"



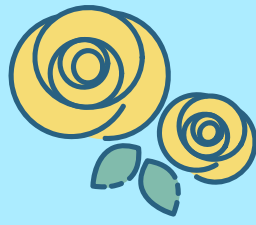
CREATE A PLAYLIST OF MARIAN SONGS (SONGS ABOUT OUR LADY!)



Ave Maria Guarani (Teen Spirit)
Ave Maria Bach Guonod

Ave Maria Schubert
Blessed One (Aaron Thompson)

Tu Pureza
Hail Holy Queen (Sister Act)



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Find all the words associated with the Immaculate Conception in the word-search

P W S C C X F W N L P O Z D G E K L C M D I M Q M
D Q N B O K N K Y E I Q Q E Z J M Y X A D Q Z A D
H R K H C N D N A V D F R A G M S E J D X Z D E L
X E I M M A C U L A T E E T P U I X N A O A V O M
X F Q J W N Y E Z E S L F H Y A T F J D W R U V G
N I A T S I I V P U I V H O O Y P W U E E R Y T D
P C A N U R F S R T R R K D N O A M N S D M A K I
K U X G F O H R L D I V B U N E B L E E F H N R I
H L F R O A E L F A O O Q A X Y D R S F O E G T P
B G S G B C X R B D N H N H G N P R O O O D E V T
P S N Q T I O R U J C I B Q V Z D P A B R N V S D
D E Y I K N H J A B S C G E T N O Z C G N V I S A
V E O R J X T B T M V H Y I M I G A V R K S V X L
Z N C F B R C S P G V W Y M R S M O P P E Y S Q Y
C P S E C A B U D E U R Z K Z O A J Y N H A X R A
E R J K M T A N N U N C I A T I O N E T L Q B M I
J E S U S B H U L V Q O N R R U U G I V K U P Q D
A D N U J J E E B G N S P N I A K W A M E R I T S
H E N R L Q V R F E C K H Z B S Z T A A Q Q X O V
O E O D I H V B W A W U F L D A I F F R Z X F H Y
H M W X Y H I Q B T L Q G A O O K D N Y B Z V F S
D E G H W V M Q E G F L R Z N R A H P A E V E B B
H D W P V R D K E D P G H H A R F W E Y R L P F H
K P Q L L O R G Q L N M G P C P Y H U E N U O J F
X X S E E Q B Q U L Z L P K R H I J O V E L V P E



Adam / annunciation / baptism / conception / death / December / dogma /
eve / Gabriel / Garden of Eden / Genesis / immaculate / Jesus / life /
 Lourdes / Lucifer / Mary / merits / New Adam / Original Sin / preserved /
redeemed / resurrection / Rue du Bac / salvation / stain / The Fall

QUICK FIRE QUIZ!

Choose at least ten of the words / phrases in the list above and work as a team to explain how they relate to the Catholic belief in the Immaculate Conception as quickly as you can. Who can explain the most words?





CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SYMBOLISM OF THIS IMAGE.



"O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you!"

by Sr. Grace Remington, OCSO, of the Cistercian Sisters of the Mississippi Abbey (Used with permission)

THE NEW EVE

STUDY THIS PENCIL & CRAYON DRAWING OF MARY COMFORTING EVE.



1. What strikes you first about this image? What questions does it raise in your mind?

2. Notice that Eve is looking downwards - what emotion do you think she is expressing?

3. What is Our Lady's face expressing?

4. Why do you think Mary is trying to lift Eve's gaze?

5. Eve is holding fruit with her left hand. What "fruit" is Our Lady leading her other hand to?

6. What is wrapped around Eve's feet? What might this mean?

7. What is Our Lady's left foot doing? What does this symbolise?

8. What kind of light surrounds both women in this image? What could this represent?

9. Based on your understanding of the Immaculate Conception, summarise what this drawing tries to teach us about Eve and the New Eve (Mary)?
