**TUESDAY DECEMBER 20 – FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT [A]**

**"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."**

**In the greeting of the Angel two essential truths for the true knowledge of Mary is revealed: Mary is full of grace; God is with Mary. The fullness of grace is total and the Church teaches us that this fullness is since the first moment of her conceiving. Mary has never known any stain of sin: neither original, nor current. Mary is immaculate in the conceiving, before the birth, after the birth, for all life. She was preserved from the original sin. Through will given to God, She never knew other in, neither mortal, nor venial. This is the first truth. The second truth teaches us instead that: Mary has answered the grace in a full way, always growing in fullness. Mary is the most perfect human yes to the Will of God. Everything of Her, in every moment, has always been of God. God is entirely of God. Another truth. Mary has found grace before God. She has found love, benevolence, condescension, mercy. All the mercy, the benevolence, the condescension, the entire love of God is for Mary. We might translate: God is enchanted by the beauty that He found in Mary. God sees Mary beautiful, very beautiful, enchanting, He sees Her as his highest, purest, holiest, the most immaculate among his conceptions. Among everything that God has thought, wanted, created: Mary is his creation, his conception, his most beautiful, holiest, purest thought. Mary is the immaculate conception of God and She is most holy. She is the only creature in the world capable to reflect the light of God on herself in a complete and perfect way.**

**The Angel says to Her what She will do: She will conceive a son, She will bear him and She shall call him Jesus. This is what God has decreed for Her. This is what God wants from Her. Hers is a mission of maternity. She will have to be Mother. This is her vocation. Now it is specified who the Son who will be born of Her is: Jesus will be great, divinely great. Her first greatness is this: He will be called Son of the Most High. In this, his greatness is unique: the Son who will be born of Mary is already born of God, through eternal generation. Jesus is the only the unique eternal, divine Son. His is greatness of God. He is Son of the Most High, but He is also God. He is God and Son of God. This is the mystery of the Son of Mary. God has made the Eternal Son his Messiah, his Anointed, his Christ. Mary will have to marry, but She will also have to remain virgin forever. She will always have to be of God. Her virginity is not a choice made by Her. It is true and proper vocation. She will have to renounce to a marriage according to the rules of man, to live one according to the rules of God and the rule for her marriage with Joseph is that of virginity. She will have to belong to God, to the Holy Spirit, to the Son She will conceive. She will not have to belong to any creature, for She is of the Creature. In her virginal womb the mystery of the mysteries will be fulfilled. In Her, God will be made man and the one who will allow this to happen is the Holy Spirit, who will descend on Her, will manifest all his might on Her, making Her Mother of the Son of the Most High. Of Her the Messiah of God will be born and this Messiah of God is the own Son of God. Holy is God. Holy is the Son of God who will be born of the Virgin Mary. Mary is made by God in every passage of her life: She is made immaculate in the conceiving. She is made virgin in eternity in the moment of the Announcing. She is made Mother of the Son of the Most High, of the Holy.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 1,26-38**

**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, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "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. 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; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.**

**Nothing will be impossible for God, for He is the Almighty and the Creator. Through Almightiness He creates from nothing. Through Almightiness He makes a barren womb fruitful. Through Almightiness He makes a virgin womb full of life. The virginal womb of Mary does not need to know a man for the life is placed by the Holy Spirit in it. This last almightiness of God is only and uniquely for Mary, the Virgin, Mother of Jesus. It is hers, only hers, it will remain always and only hers in eternity. Mary is made by God. Mary lets herself be made by God, according to the ways of God. May the Lord do what He wants of me, how He wants, when He wants, where He wants it. I am his handmaid. He has every right over me, not only for creation, but also for gift of my will and of my understanding. Everything of me is of God and will always be his: heat, mind, thoughts, will, understanding, soul, spirit, body. The mission is fulfilled. The Angel can come back into heaven to give the good news of the happened incarnation of the Word of God. It is in this moment that the Word is made flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary.**