

# **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**

*In 1854, Pope Pius IX solemnly proclaimed:*

*“The most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin.”*

This **dogma** of our Catholic faith addresses the condition in which we are all born as creature except for **Mary, the Virgin Mother of Jesus Christ**. While every member of humanity is **cleansed** from ***original sin after birth*** through the **Sacrament of Baptism**, **Mary is conceived without the stain of the original sin**. The Heavenly Father who has chosen **Mary to be the Mother of His only begotten Son**, “**preserved her**” from sin from the very moment of her **conception in her mother’s womb, St. Anne**.

**God** applied the **fruits and graces of the work of redemption of Jesus** to **Mary beforehand in order to keep her pure and holy**. This is what is meant by that **Mary was conceived** without the effects of original sin. **God *preserved her—freed her*** from of **Adam’s sin**.

**For this reason, we read in Luke 1:28** how the archangel **Gabriel**, speaking on behalf of **God** addresses **Mary** as “**full of grace**” and “**highly favored**”.

In that context, this phrase means that **Mary is receiving all the special divine graces from the fruits of Her Son's redemption beforehand. One may ask, can God do that? Of course, He can.**

**If God can create the world out of nothing, or cause a barren woman like Elizabeth to conceive a child in her old age—**

**John the Baptist, or a Virgin, like Mary to conceive a child without the participation of man, I am confidently certain that God can take and apply all the graces of Christ's Resurrection to Mary beforehand creating Mary as that pure and holy vessel for His Holy and Divine Son!**

The **Holy Spirit** has led the **Church—God's people** to the insight that **Mary** had to be the most “**perfect work**” of **God** next to the **miracle of the Incarnation**—when the **Word** became **flesh!**

The **piety** and the **love God's people** towards **Mary, the Mother of God** led the faithful to **believe and profess** even before the 1854 dogma that **Mary was Immaculate conceived!**

For centuries the faithful believed that ***Mary was full of grace and free of sin from the first moment of her existence, otherwise, how could She possibly conceive and bring forth the holy and sinless Savior?***

**Mary** is pure, holy & Immaculate from the moment of conception because **God** made her that way but **never took the privilege of her freedom to choose and declare her Fiat—“let it be done according to your Word!”**

Finally, logic reveals this truth: Would **God** have allowed His **ONLY Begotten Son**—that **Pure & Blameless Lamb** to have been **born of a woman** whose body and soul would be defiled by sin?

The truth of the matter is that **only** “a **holy body** can bring forth another holy body. The words of the **Opening Prayer** sum it **well**:

***“God, you prepared a worthy dwelling for your Son by the Immaculate Conception.”***

In other words, **Mary’s body** became the **first “tabernacle”** to hold and cherish and guard the **Son of God**...much like the **golden Tabernacle** in our **sanctuary** which reverently holds **Our Blessed Eucharistic Lord**.

Let us remember **Who we are carrying in our body after we receive Him Eucharistically? How is our human Tabernacle?**

**The Immaculate Conception is the Patroness of North America!**

In the **Litany of Mary**, we are reminded that **Mary is conceived without original sin. And so we pray:**

***“O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.” (3x).***