

The Junior Observer

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A Good News Story

Gabriel Tells Mary She Will Bear a Son

Catholic News Service

One day, God sent the angel Gabriel on a mission. He wanted Gabriel to go to the town of Nazareth in Galilee and deliver a very important message to a young girl who lived there.

The girl's name was Mary. She was a virgin who was betrothed to a man named Joseph, who was of the house of King David.

"Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you," Gabriel said when he visited Mary.

When Mary heard Gabriel's greeting, she was troubled and wondered what it meant.

Gabriel knew what she was thinking.

"Do not be afraid, Mary," he assured her, "for you have found favor with God."

Gabriel then shared with her the message God wanted him to relay.

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus," the angel announced. "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



Bible Trivia

How long did Mary stay with Elizabeth? (Hint: Luke 1:56)

Answer: Three months.

Kingdom there will be no end."

Mary was confused. She asked Gabriel how she could have a baby when she and Joseph had not yet begun their married life together.

"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," Gabriel explained.

The angel also gave Mary some additional news.

"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," he said.

"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord," Mary said.

"May it be done to me according to your word."

After Mary had spoken, Gabriel left.

Not long after, Mary traveled to Judah to visit Elizabeth. When Mary entered the house of Elizabeth and her husband, Zechariah, she called out a greeting.

When Elizabeth heard it, the baby in her womb leapt for joy, and she was filled with the Holy Spirit.

"Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb," Elizabeth said.

Q&A

Whom did Gabriel visit?
What message did Gabriel deliver?

Read more about it in Luke 1



(Photo provided/ Robbin Clifton)

St. Mary Students Share Research, Creativity in Celebrating Saints

STERLING—Students at St. Mary School celebrated All Saints Day Nov. 1 by dressing up as their favorite saint and attending an all-school Mass celebrated by Father James Keenan, pastor. Father Keenan called on some eighth-graders to share research from essays they had prepared on their chosen saint.

Religious Education Students Honor Sainly Role Models

EAST DUBUQUE—On Oct. 30, during the opening procession of a Mass, religious education students at St. Mary Parish portrayed their favorite saints in anticipation of All Saints Day Nov. 1.



(Photo provided/ Kathy Williams)

Celebrate St. Nicholas Day

Coming up soon on Dec. 6 is the feast day of St. Nicholas, a bishop from Myra in Egypt who we know for his gift-giving and his generosity to poor women who could not afford to marry.

One tradition on his feast day is putting shoes by the front door the night of Dec. 5. Overnight, small gifts and candy are left in the shoes — honoring his example of love and giving as we get ready for Christmas.

We found these cute wood spoon crafts at a blog called Sycamore Stirrings. You can find more pictures at <https://sycamorestirrings.blogspot.com/2010/11/st-nicholas-day.html>

Supplies:

- + Red felt
- + Wooden spoons
- + Cotton balls
- + Googly eyes
- + Gold glitter glue
- + Gold or yellow pipe cleaners
- + Scissors
- + Black pen
- + Hot glue (adults only)

1) Cut two robes and two hats from felt.

2) Cut five to six inches of pipe cleaner and bend the top into a cane.

3) If you're using hot glue, have an adult help you. Glue the robes and hat onto the spoon — one on each side. Glue on the cotton ball as a beard and glue the pipe cleaner to the robe. Glue or draw eyes, then add a nose and mouth.
4) Draw a cross on the hat (called a *miter*) with the glitter glue, or glue 2 pieces of yellow string.



(Photo/ Sycamore Stirrings)