



**Fourth Week of Advent**  
**Sunday, December 20th, 2020**

*Mrs. Eileen Johnstone, BCBS Website Manager,  
shares her reflections on today's Scripture readings.*



[2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16; PS 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29; ROM 16:25-27; LK 1:26-38](#)

In today's gospel, we hear for the second time in just a couple of weeks, the story of the angel Gabriel's visit to Mary at the Annunciation.

Mary must have been frightened by his visit, as Gabriel seeks to calm her fears: "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God." Then, Gabriel continues to tell her she will become the mother of Jesus.

As Mary tries to comprehend what the angel is saying -- and God is asking of her, she did have a practical question -- "How can that be, since I have no relations with a man?" Then, knowing that answer, she gives her whole-hearted 'Yes' to whatever God has in store for her. And, because of that 'yes', Jesus came into the world!

How often do I find myself in a situation like Mary, where I hear the little voice of God inside me, asking me to do something that I don't really want to do, or doesn't come easily for me or just seems a little 'impractical'.

Maybe it is something as small as sharing a thought with someone, and risk being looked down upon or just ignored. Maybe, it is something much bigger: a complete change of mind or priorities.

How do I respond to that little voice of God, calling me to dare? Do I give my complete and immediate 'Yes' as Mary did: 'Yes, let it be done to me -- and anything else that you ask!' or I do give myself excuses, or just get distracted by other things in my life?

This Advent, we can all make an effort to give our quick, unconditional and total 'Yes' to what God is asking us to do -- at this time, in this day, in this present moment.

We may be a bit 'afraid' as Mary was; we may have questions, as Mary did. But, by saying our 'Yes' to whatever God is calling us to do, we too can bring Jesus into the world.

**Faith: Lived, Deepened, Celebrated**

During these uncertain times, we welcome your prayer requests. The Bishop Chatard community will lift up your prayer intentions in the weekly BCHS Prayer Chain. **Email Mr. Steven Patzke, at [spatzke@bishopchatard.org](mailto:spatzke@bishopchatard.org), your prayer intentions or to join the prayer chain.**