



Advent Reflection for Wednesday, December 7th

For the podcast click [here](#) to listen.

Luke 1: 26-35

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.'* But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'

Reflection by Christine Tripi:

In the reading, Mary is told by Gabriel that she is about to experience a big change in her life. He tells her not to be afraid because she is in good standing with God.

I've just begun working again after experiencing a long period of unemployment. I had a lot of trepidation going into my new work environment, including fears of inadequacy and inferiority. Would I learn quickly enough to suit my employer? I worried that I wasn't as sharp as I used to be, and I knew that this work was totally new to me, so likely a steep learning curve. Would I like my coworkers? Would I be able to adapt to this new environment and have the energy for a 40 hour work week? I'd gotten quite used to doing a whole lot of nothing in the past few months. What if this job wasn't a good fit for one reason or another? Would I be able to overcome the obstacles necessary for me to be a success?

This reading helped me to realize that I'm not alone in this situation. God is watching over me and I don't need to hold all of this fear. He is there all of the time, and I just need to remind myself of that when I start to feel afraid. I shouldn't enter into a new situation with anxiety because I have God in my life.

One question that came up for me was why wasn't Mary punished for showing doubt and confusion about what Gabriel was telling her? In another reading, Zechariah was punished for doubting Gabriel about Elizabeth's pregnancy.

Christine has been attending Holy Apostles since May, 2022 and is the co-captain of coffee hour. She works for Catholic Charities as a Data Associate, and in her spare time enjoys going to plays.

