

Advent 2015
A Tale of Two Women (4)

Today, on this fourth and final Sunday of Advent, the liturgy focuses our attention on two women: (1) an old woman, Elizabeth, who is about to give birth to the last and greatest prophet of the Old Testament, John the Baptist, and (2) a young woman, Mary, who is about to give birth to the Messiah, the Son of God. The pregnancy of both women is mysterious and fills us with wonder and awe. Elizabeth is far beyond the age for conceiving a child, and yet through God's power she will give birth to a son. Mary is a virgin and yet she is pregnant with child through the power of God's Spirit.

Both are women of deep and abiding faith. Elizabeth and her husband Zechariah are pious and law-abiding Israelites. They embody all that is good in Israel; they are the fruit of Old Testament faith. Mary is a young girl, a virgin, filled with faith and trust in God. She is the new Eve, the beginning of a new age, the age of the Messiah. Through her Son, the Church will be born.

Elizabeth, the elder of the two women, understands the importance of Mary in God's plan of salvation history, and so she proclaims: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb ... Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." Mary is the perfect model of faith; she is the example of what it means to believe the Word of the Lord will be fulfilled.

In these final days before Christmas, Elizabeth and Mary remind us that God is faithful to his promise. God fulfills his promises in unexpected ways: in a woman too old to be pregnant; in a virgin pregnant with new life. As we wait for the coming of Christ in the mystery of Christmas, we ask for the grace to believe with Mary and Elizabeth that God always his promises.

Father Matera

Christmas Eve Masses

4:00 PM	Vigil Mass (in the Church)
4:00 PM	Vigil Mass (in the Parish Center)
6:00 PM	Vigil Mass
	<i>Mass Preceded By Our Children's Choir 5:30PM</i>
10:00 PM	Mass during the Night

Christmas Day Masses

9:00 AM	Mass at Dawn
11:00 AM	Mass during the Day

Sacrament of Penance

Tuesday	6:00 to 700 PM
Wednesday	6:00 to 7:00 PM