

Mary's Role in the Mystery of the Incarnation

By Melkisedeck Leon Shine · August 5, 2023

All you need to Know About Virgin Mary Mother of God Jesus Christ, By Melkisedeck Leon Shine

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? Welcome, dear readers, to this enlightening article about the extraordinary role of Mary, the Mother of God, in the mystery of the Incarnation! ?? As Roman Catholics, we hold Mary in the highest regard, recognizing her as the vessel through which our Lord Jesus Christ entered the world. Let us delve into this wondrous mystery and explore the profound significance of Mary's role in God's divine plan.

1 **Mary's Immaculate Conception:** From the moment of her own conception, Mary was preserved free from the stain of original sin by God's grace, in anticipation of her unique role in the Incarnation. This is beautifully expressed in the Catechism of the Catholic Church: "The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of Almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin" (CCC 491).

2 **The Annunciation:** In the Gospel of Luke, we witness the angel Gabriel's visitation to Mary, where he delivers the astounding news that she has been chosen to conceive and bear the Son of God. Mary's humble and faithful response, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38), is a testament to her profound trust and obedience to God's will.

3 **The Divine Motherhood:** Mary's role as the Mother of God is a central belief in our Catholic faith. It was through her "yes" to God that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14). The Catechism beautifully explains, "Mary is truly 'Mother of God' since she is the mother of the eternal Son of God made man, who is God himself" (CCC 509). Through her motherly love, Mary nurtured and cared for Jesus, guiding Him throughout His earthly life.

4 **The Visitation:** Another powerful example of Mary's role in the Incarnation is found in the Gospel of Luke when Mary, filled with the Holy Spirit, joyfully visits her cousin Elizabeth, who is pregnant with John the Baptist. This encounter is a beautiful testament to the bond between Mary and Jesus even before His birth, as Elizabeth exclaims, "And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Luke 1:43). Mary's visitation sanctified both Elizabeth and her unborn child, John, who leaped in the womb at the sound of Mary's greeting.

5 **Mary's Perpetual Virginity:** It is important to clarify that Mary, in her fidelity to God's plan, remained a virgin before, during, and after the birth of Jesus. This perpetual virginity is affirmed in both Sacred Scripture and the teachings of the early Church Fathers. Saint Jerome, a renowned Catholic theologian, said, "You say that Mary did not remain a virgin: I claim still more that Joseph himself, on account of Mary, was a virgin."

6 **Mary's Presence at Calvary:** As we meditate on the mystery of the Incarnation, we cannot overlook Mary's presence at the foot of the cross. In his final moments, Jesus

entrusted His beloved mother to the care of Saint John, symbolizing Mary's motherly role in the life of every believer. Jesus declared, "Woman, behold your son!" and to John, "Behold your mother!" (John 19:26-27). In this act, Jesus shows His immense love for Mary and establishes her as our spiritual mother, always interceding for us.

7 The Assumption: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is another profound event in her life, where she was taken body and soul into heaven. This dogma of the Catholic Church emphasizes the unique role Mary played in the Incarnation and her continuing presence in the life of the Church. As Pope Pius XII declared, "The Immaculate Mother of God, the ever-virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory."

8 Mary as the New Eve: In the early Church, the parallel between Mary and Eve was drawn, highlighting Mary's role in undoing the disobedience of the first woman. Saint Irenaeus, an early Church Father, beautifully expressed this by stating, "The knot of Eve's disobedience was untied by Mary's obedience." Mary's obedience and cooperation with God's plan played a vital part in the redemption of mankind.

9 Mother of Mercy: Throughout history, Mary has been known as the compassionate and loving Mother of Mercy. Her intercessory role in our lives and her ability to draw us closer to her Son is a profound source of comfort and hope. Saint Bernard of Clairvaux poignantly said, "In dangers, in doubts, in difficulties, think of Mary, call upon Mary." When we turn to Mary, she leads us to the loving embrace of Jesus.

? As we reflect on the role of Mary in the mystery of the Incarnation, we are reminded of her unique and irreplaceable place in our faith. Through her humble "yes" to God, Mary became the vessel through which God chose to enter the world, granting us the gift of salvation. Her unwavering faith, purity, and maternal love serve as an inspiration for all believers.

? Now, dear readers, what are your thoughts on Mary's role in the Mystery of the Incarnation? How has she influenced your spiritual journey? Share your experiences and opinions below! ??