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THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD



This month we celebrate the feast of the Annunciation on March 25th. It is celebrated this day because it is exactly 9 months before the Feast of the Nativity. The story comes from the extra biblical book, the protoevangelium of James.

Do you know what a mandorla is?

It is the blue circles and the dove at the top center of the icon. A mandorla demonstrates an invisible spiritual reality. No one can actually see the dove, but Mary conceived by the power of the holy spirit.

What details do you notice in this icon that are different than others?

In some versions of this icon Mary has dropped her spinning because she is so surprised to see the angel. The Annunciation can be considered the greatest moment for women in the history of the world. It is the moment that a woman became the Mother of God.

See the red cloth hanging between the two buildings?

This shows that this event took place inside.

-Written by Kim Bombak



ANNUNCIATION BY FR. VLADIMIR LYSAK

- The Angel Gabriel is usually standing with one foot forward as if he has been hurrying to make this announcement to Mary. In some icons it looks like he was running to announce this Good News.
- The Angel is holding his right hand out to show that he is speaking. Mary also holds her arm out to show that she is responding. Sometimes we might see Mary with her hand up to show that she has accepted God's plan for her.
 - Sometimes the angel holds a staff to show that he is a messenger.
- Sometimes we see the Theotokos sitting on a chair that is raised up. Sometimes she is standing but standing on some

kind of platform to show that she is higher and greater than the angel.

- We usually see three stars on Mary's garments showing us that she is a virgin before, during and after the birth of Jesus.
 - At the top of the icon we see a semi-circle representing heaven and we see rays coming from heaven upon Our Lady. In some icons we might see a dove representing the Holy Spirit, although that is sometimes saved for the icon of Theophany. Sometimes we even see Our Lord in the semi-circle.
- Mary is holding a spindle of bright red since she was making the curtain for the Temple in Jerusalem.