

St. John Paul II Parish, Sellersburg IN

The First Fifteen

The Spiritual Life and Evangelization Commission asked that all parish meetings begin with a program we are calling "The First Fifteen." We are asking all parish meetings to begin with a few minutes of faith sharing. One person in the group reads the reading provided below (which corresponds with this next week's weekend readings) and everyone is given an opportunity to reflect and share on the readings. The questions below are simply a way to stimulate your reflection. You can use them or anything that strikes you about the word of God.

Sunday, December 24, 2017

Gospel Reading: Luke 1: 26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

"Behold you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the most High, and the Lord will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible with God. "Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord." Then the angel departed from her.

Questions to Ponder:

In this week's Gospel Mary expresses her faith in God with a resounding "YES". Mary was not only the first Christian and Mother of the Lord, but she is also the Mother of the Church. During Advent time we find spiritual reading, prayer and opportunities that allow us to grow closer to God.

1. Share a time when you found a chance to say "Yes" to God?
2. Is spiritual growth a part of your Advent? Share one thing that you add to your daily routine during Advent.
3. Can you think of someone to whom you can reach out to in their time of need this Advent?

End with the "**Glory Be**"

“Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen”