

Immaculate Conception December 9, 2019

So, today is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. That is a pretty long name. But we can break it down and understand it together. “Conception” is about when a mommy has a baby in her tummy. But here is a very important question, are you ready? Which baby are we talking about? Which baby is this Immaculate Conception all about?

A lot of people always think it is about Jesus. But today is not about Jesus. We celebrate Jesus in his mommy's tummy on March 25th with the Annunciation. And we celebrate his birthday on which day? That's right Christmas! But we still haven't answered today's question. Whose conception are we talking about today? The answer is Mary! This is the day we celebrate Mary coming into the world. She was conceived in the womb of her mother Anne. Anne and her husband Joachim were so happy to be pregnant with a little girl. This girl would not be like any other girl in the whole world. You see, we've talked about what conception is, but what does the “immaculate” part mean?

“Immaculate” means without stain. Mary came into this world without any stain of sin, from the very beginning of her life in her mother's womb. She was perfect, just like Eve was in the garden before sin entered the world. This is amazing, right? You see Mary was so important, that God allowed her to be conceived without any stain of what we call original sin. Original sin is that thing that makes us sometimes question God, or want to do wrong things to each

other. Mary was born perfect because the love of the Lord was with her.

So, this day is about how good God was to Mary. But, it is also about how much God loves us. Because while none of us came into this world without that stain of original sin, each of us can be born into the next world and follow Mary our mother in perfect love of God. God allowed Mary to open that door for us through Jesus Christ. And the world has never been the same.

As we remember Mary today may we always remember her as the example that she is. As Pope Francis is known to say: “She is my mama!” that's who Mary is, she is our mama. she is one who teaches us how to live in this life, and how to look forward to the life to come. My friends, let us celebrate Mama today and give thanks to God for giving us a Mother so full of grace.