

THINK ABOUT IT ...

1. Who announced to the Virgin Mary that she would become the Theotokos?
 - A. Archangel Michael
 - B. Archangel Gabriel
 - C. Elizabeth
 - D. Joseph
2. What was the name of the city where Mary lived?
 - A. Jerusalem
 - B. Jericho
 - C. Nazareth
 - D. Canaan
3. What famous king was Joseph's ancestor?
 - A. David
 - B. Nicholas
 - C. Zachariah
 - D. Daniel
4. Elizabeth:
 - A. was old and had been unable to have children
 - B. was Mary's cousin
 - C. became the mother of St. John the Baptist
 - D. all of the above
5. The Angel told Mary that:
 - A. She should name her Child "Jesus"
 - B. The Child would be "the Son of God"
 - C. "of His Kingdom there will be no end"
 - D. all of the above

Annunciation Most Holy Theotokos



“Behold the maidservant of the Lord!”
(Luke 1:38)

THE ANNUNCIATION

from Luke 1: 24-38

On **March 25**, the Orthodox Church celebrates the Feast of the Annunciation. “Annunciation” is a word that means **“to announce.”**

The Feast of the Annunciation celebrates the day when the **Archangel Gabriel** appeared to the Virgin Mary to announce to her that she would become the **Theotokos, the Mother of Christ our God.**

Mary lived in a city named **Nazareth** which was in the region of Israel called Galilee. She was engaged to be married to a man named **Joseph**, whose **ancestor** was **King David**. (An ancestor is a relative from long ago, like a great-great-great grandfather.)

The Angel Gabriel came into the room where Mary was, and he said, *“Rejoice, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!”*

When she first saw the Archangel Gabriel, she was worried. But he told her that God had blessed her, so she should not be afraid.

The Angel Gabriel said to Mary, *“And you will give birth to a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus.”*

Mary asked how that could happen, because she was not a married woman.

The Angel Gabriel replied, *“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you.”*

He also told her *“that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God ... and of His Kingdom there will be no end.”*

And the Angel Gabriel also told her that her cousin **Elizabeth**, who was old and had never been able to have children, would also have a son. Elizabeth’s son became **Saint John the Baptist.**

Mary wondered about what the Angel said, but the Angel told her that all these things were true, *“Because with God nothing is impossible.”*

Then Mary said, *“Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.”*

And then the Angel went away.

WHO IS THE ARCHANGEL GABRIEL?

March 26 is the **Synaxis of the Holy Archangel Gabriel.**

The Archangel Gabriel was chosen by God to announce to the **Virgin Mary** about the Incarnation* of Christ from her. The Archangel Gabriel watched over the Theotokos throughout her whole life.

So, on the day after the Feast of the Annunciation, **we give thanks to God and we venerate His messenger, the Archangel Gabriel.**

Long before the Birth of Christ, the Archangel Gabriel also announced the future Incarnation* of the Son of God to **people of the Old Testament.**

The Archangel Gabriel inspired the **Moses** to write the first five books of the Old Testament.

The Archangel Gabriel announced the meaning of a vision to the **Prophet Daniel.**

The Archangel Gabriel appeared to **St. Anna** with the news that she would give birth to the Virgin Mary.

The Archangel Gabriel appeared to the **Priest Zachariah**, foretelling the birth **St. John the Baptist.**

God sent the Archangel Gabriel to **St. Joseph** in a dream, to explain to him about the upcoming Birth of Christ from the Virgin Mary. Later the Archangel Gabriel warned him of the evil intentions of Herod, and told him to go to Egypt with the Child and His Mother.

When Christ prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, the Archangel Gabriel, whose name means “Man of God,” came from Heaven to be with Him.

Then the **Myrrh-Bearing Women** heard from the Archangel Gabriel the joyous **news of Christ’s Resurrection.**

*Remember the **meaning of the word “Incarnation”** from the lessons about the Nativity of Christ. “Incarnation” means that the Son of God was born “in the flesh” from the Virgin Mary and that He is true God and perfect Man.