



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY August 14 & BEYOND

Feast of Saint Mary the Virgin

I'm not a morning person. While daily Bible reading and morning prayer is the first scheduled activity on my calendar every day, I'd be just as happy to do this at 10 or 11 AM instead of the usual 7. I trust God understands my heart is his even if my eyes struggle to focus on the words before me. I hope that my offering of the first minutes of my day not only gets the day off to the best start, but represents an acceptable sacrifice as best as I'm able to offer at that time.

I have to confess that if an angel ever appeared to me during my morning prayer time, my response to any message delivered would fall far short of the beautiful Magnificat of Mary as recorded in the Gospel of Luke. I'd be much more likely to beg off playing any role in God's plan of universal salvation with excuses of inadequacy rather than offering soaring and unreserved praise. Maybe one reason my Creator hasn't blessed me with an angelic visitation yet is because He knows me so well.

But my regular religious practice does help me encounter the Lord in ways in which I'm frequently surprised, whether in the words of Holy Scripture, through my own my feeble prayers, or when receiving the Sacraments. If I feel him ask me to serve him in some way I hadn't previously considered, I draw comfort from my confidence that whenever God speaks to us, it is in a manner particularly suited for us to offer willing assent. For this reason, the words of Mary not only impress me, but they also inspire me.

I'm also inspired by the recognition that when God upends human expectations, as he does so frequently throughout the Bible, the men and women who cooperate with his will are blessed in ways they probably couldn't imagine before their encounter with Him. So, just as the devout Jewish girl probably had no idea what it would mean to accept the call to be the human mother of God's incarnate Son, when I follow the Holy Spirit's prompting, even with a halting and hesitant yes, my first step in obedience not only takes my faith in new and wondrous directions, it might even, by the grace of God, change the world. And that's worth getting up for at any hour.



Rick Ochocki, member of All Saints' Parish

Readings for this Sunday

Isaiah 61:10-11 Psalm 34:1-9, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 1:46-55

Calendar

SUNDAY: 8:00a Low Mass (Church)
9:30a Christian Formation (Fireside Room)
10:30a Solemn Mass (Church)

—*The entrance to the church is on 6th Avenue*—

Note: Child care is provided at the 8:00a, 10:30a Mass, Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.

MONDAY 7:00p (AA) Doctors' Group (Fireside Room)

TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

FRIDAY: 9:00a Morning Prayer (St. Mary's Chapel)

9:30a MASS (St. Mary's Chapel)

AA Meetings 6:30p Rainbow Bridge (Fireside Room)

8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)

8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)