

# Advent Reflections

December 12, 2019



Just as I was beginning my faith journey as a novice with the Felician Sisters, my spiritual director told me, “When it comes to your spiritual life, there’s no such thing as a mere coincidence; rather, it’s God’s hand in your life, so pay attention!” I remembered those words when I received my assignment for this year’s Advent reflection and realized that the Gospel reading was the same one that I had been given last year! “Coincidence?” I wondered.

I decided to investigate a bit further and discovered that the word *coincidence* is translated from the Greek *synkyrian* which is a combination of two words: *sun* and *kurios*. *Sun* means “together with,” and *kurios* means “supreme in authority.” Therefore, a biblical understanding of coincidence could be “what occurs together by God’s providential arrangement of circumstances.” I wondered again, “What is God in His loving providence trying to say to me in this particular Gospel passage this year?”

After several sessions of prayer, the following lines began to resonate deep in my soul:

Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you!

Do not be afraid for you have found favor with  
God.

Nothing will be impossible for God.

May it be done to me according to your word.

Yes, I know that the Lord’s grace, the transforming power of His love, is and always has been with me. Yes, I am convinced that the favor of God’s grace will continue to be with me, and that there is no need to be anxious or afraid of what He may ask of me. Yes, I believe that nothing, absolutely nothing will be

impossible for God and that He invites me to work together with Him for the spiritual renewal of the world. Yes! I eagerly accept His call! What about you? Are you paying attention? Can you hear what the Lord is asking of you? Pray for the grace to respond with a resounding "Yes!"

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## **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**

### **Reading 1 [ZEC 2:14-17](#)**

Sing and rejoice, O daughter Zion!  
See, I am coming to dwell among you, says the LORD.  
Many nations shall join themselves to the LORD on that day,  
and they shall be his people,  
and he will dwell among you,  
and you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you.  
The LORD will possess Judah as his portion in the holy land,  
and he will again choose Jerusalem.  
Silence, all mankind, in the presence of the LORD!  
For he stirs forth from his holy dwelling.

### **Or [RV 11:19A; 12:1-6A, 10AB](#)**

God's temple in heaven was opened,  
and the ark of his covenant could be seen in the temple.

A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun,  
with the moon under her feet,  
and on her head a crown of twelve stars.  
She was with child and wailed aloud in pain as she labored to give birth.  
Then another sign appeared in the sky;  
it was a huge red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns,  
and on its heads were seven diadems.  
Its tail swept away a third of the stars in the sky  
and hurled them down to the earth.  
Then the dragon stood before the woman about to give birth,  
to devour her child when she gave birth.  
She gave birth to a son, a male child,  
destined to rule all the nations with an iron rod.  
Her child was caught up to God and his throne.

The woman herself fled into the desert  
where she had a place prepared by God.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:  
"Now have salvation and power come,  
and the Kingdom of our God  
and the authority of his Anointed."

**Responsorial Psalm** [JUDITH 13:18BCDE, 19](#)

**R. (15:9d) You are the highest honor of our race.**

Blessed are you, daughter, by the Most High God,  
above all the women on earth;  
and blessed be the LORD God,  
the creator of heaven and earth.

**R. You are the highest honor of our race.**

Your deed of hope will never be forgotten  
by those who tell of the might of God.

**R. You are the highest honor of our race.**

**Alleluia**

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Blessed are you, holy Virgin Mary, deserving of all praise;  
from you rose the sun of justice, Christ our God.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel** [LK 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 Son of the Most High,  
and the Lord God 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 for God.”  
Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.  
May it be done to me according to your word.”  
Then the angel departed from her.

Or [LK 1:39-47](#)

Mary set out  
and traveled to the hill country in haste  
to a town of Judah,  
where she entered the house of Zechariah  
and greeted Elizabeth.  
When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting,  
the infant leaped in her womb,  
and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit,  
cried out in a loud voice and said,  
“Most blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.  
And how does this happen to me,  
that the mother of my Lord should come to me?  
For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears,  
the infant in my womb leaped for joy.  
Blessed are you who believed  
that what was spoken to you by the Lord  
would be fulfilled.”

And Mary said:

“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;  
my spirit rejoices in God my savior.”