

# The Nativity of the Virgin Maria

## Cathedral of Saint Matthew – Houston, Texas

The Church celebrates the birth of only three great figures in Christianity: Our Savior Jesus, Saint John the Baptist, and the Virgin Mary.

We know little about the life of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, but the tradition of the Christian town has transmitted the information of the names of Mary's parents: Joaquin and Ana. They came to be the grandparents of the boy Jesus.

It is possible that like Mary, many pious Jews had some marvelous revelation from God that was like a prize for their faith. A tradition of the Christian town through the centuries has been to believe that the Conception of Mary was so special that she was conceived without original sin. That is why we call her the Immaculate one, the one without blemish. To confirm this faith of the Christian town, the same Virgin Mary declared herself in an apparition to Bernadette in the Cavern of Lourdes, France, in the 19th century, when she said "I am the Immaculate Conception."

After a gestation of this new creature of God for nine months, Ana gives birth in Nazareth, to a healthy and very beautiful girl of grace. They give her the name of Mary. Tradition gives us a simple history of Mary, growing up in a very pious home with Joaquin and Ana, like the Jews of their time. The people expected the arrival of the Messiah, the Christ of God, the Savior of all men. We can imagine that Mary would go each year to Jerusalem, each week going to the Synagogue of Nazareth, which is her hometown, and that she kept in permanent contact with the sacred books of the Prophets, the Psalms, and the books of Moses. With so much love, the Father God was preparing the heart and the body of Mary so that at the exact moment, in the fullness of times, she, Mary, would become the MOTHER OF THE MESSIAH, the mother of the Word of God, the Son of God!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARY!**

Celebrating the Birth of the Virgin Mary, Mother of God, fills us with a lot of happiness and hope!

We know how much love she has had these past 20 centuries of Christianity towards everyone that shares the faith, that believes in the baptism of Jesus, and that are members of the Holy, Catholic, and

Apostolic Church or therefore members of the body of Jesus Christ, her son. Because of her love, we have never doubted the feeling as Mary's children and we have invoked her as the Mother of God and our mother, by praying each Ave Maria.

Through her many apparitions, we know how much she has asked all Christians throughout these 20 centuries of Christianity, to pray without ceasing for peace and justice, for love among all men - her children!

To finish these words in homage of our Mother of the heavens, the always Virgin Mary, we ask her for all the victims of the Hurricane Katrina to have piety of all our brothers that have lost all and are suffering because of hunger, lack of clothing or shelter... we finish today by reciting the prayer of Ave Maria and with the song of "Mañanitas" (song sung in honor of one's birthday) to the always Virgin Mary, Mother of God, and our mother!