



## Immaculate Conception of Mary Solemnity December 8<sup>th</sup>

The Blessed Virgin Mary was preserved from the stain of original sin in the first instant of her conception in the womb of her mother. This was a singular privilege and grace of God, granted in view of the merits of Jesus Christ. From the moment her soul was created and infused into her body, it was free from original sin and filled with sanctifying grace. Her soul was never stained by original sin, nor by the depraved emotions, passions, and weaknesses consequent on that sin, but created in a state of original sanctity, innocence, and justice. She had at least the graces of the first Eve before the Fall and more. This privilege was befitting the one who was to be mother of the Redeemer.

The doctrine was defined by Blessed Pope Pius IX, 8 December 1854. It is in accord with the texts of Scripture (Genesis 3), “I will put enmities between thee [the serpent] and the woman, and thy seed and her seed”; (Luke 1), “Hail, full of grace.” It is established by tradition, by the writings of the Fathers, by feasts observed in honor of this prerogative, by the general belief of the faithful. The very controversies over it among theologians brought about a clear understanding and acceptance of the doctrine long before it was declared by Blessed Pope Pius IX.

In our parish we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception every December 8<sup>th</sup> with the celebration of the Eucharist, usually at 7 p.m. (Please refer to our bulletin for more information) This is a holy day of obligation, but furthermore, an opportunity to grow in our relationship with our Mother.

### [PRAYER ON THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION](#)