

# Reflection for Friday, December 8, 2006: Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary, Solemnity.

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## Author

Kalb, Howie, S.J.

## Date

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## Office/Affiliation

Jesuit Community

## Reading 1

Genesis 3:9-15, 20

## Psalm

Psalms 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4

## Reading 2

Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12

## Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

## Lectionary Number

689. Year I, Advent.

## Metadata

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## Reflection:

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"...for nothing will be impossible for God." (Luke 1:37)

In his book, "YOUR GOD IS TOO SMALL" the author J.B. Phillips makes an air-tight case for why so many people give up their religion. He is convinced that instead of maturing in their faith and growing in the understanding of God, fallen-away people hold onto a juvenile image of God ending up with a caricature of the Almighty.

A few of these immature caricatures described in detail in his book have the captions: "Resident Policeman", "Parental Hangover", "Grand Old Man", "God-in-a-Box", "Second Hand God", etc. In the last half of the book he demonstrates how infinite and almighty God has to be. But the atheist refuses to accept a "greater power" with the attributes of God, so they deny he exists.

There was a person who understood there had to be one responsible for the world that exists today who is Infinite, Omnipotent, Omniscient, Immutable, etc. The quiet virgin, Mary, at Nazareth had questions but little doubt in believing the message the Angel brought to her from God. No matter how impossible it seemed she believed she had been chosen to bear the Messiah, the Son of God. Her faith had grown mature and so she was able to accept that "...nothing will be impossible for God."

On this Feast of the Immaculate Conception we profess that Mary was conceived and born without the stain of original sin. "Mother! Whose virgin bosom was uncrossed with the least shade of thought to sin allied;... Our tainted nature's solitary boast." Never did she fail to respond to God's love. This is more than non-believers can comprehend. And why? Because their idea of God is too small. Since whatever faith they had atrophied, no way could they acknowledge a deity who must be omnipotent and infinite in order to explain reality.

May our faith continue to mature overcoming questions and doubts when appraising the words and actions of the Almighty. Whatever Jesus said or promised has to be true. He "can neither deceive nor be deceived". He is so infinite and omnipotent "...nothing will be impossible for God".

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The Immaculate Conception, the belief that the Mother of God was conceived and born without sin, was declared a dogma of the Catholic Church by Pope Pius IX on December 8, 1854. The feast of the Immaculate Conception is a holy day of obligation for Roman Catholics. Orthodox Christians, on the other hand, do not subscribe to the Immaculate Conception. The righteousness and sanctity of the Virgin Mary were manifested in the fact that She, being "human with passions like us," so loved God and gave Herself over to Him, that by Her purity She was exalted high above the rest of the human race. For this, having been foreknown and forechosen, She was vouchsafed to be purified by the Holy Spirit Who came upon Her, and to conceive of Him the very Saviour of the world. THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Solemnity December 8. MASS. ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Isaiah 61:10 Gaudens gaudebo in Domino, et exultabit anima mea in Deo meo; quia induit me vestimentis salutis, et indumento iustitiae circumdedit me, quasi sponsam ornatam monilibus suis I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation, and wrapped me in a mantle of. O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin prepared a worthy dwelling for your Son, grant, we pray, that as you preserved her from every stain by virtue of the Death of your Son, which you foresaw, so, through her intercession, we, too, may be cleansed and admitted to your presence. Happy Solemnity of Immaculate Conception! Lord help us by her prayers, and free us from our sins. ages ago (permalink). GABRIELLE de MANILA/Audi Gabriel says December 8-Solemnity of the Immaculate Concepcion of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Sts.Peter and Paul Cathedral Tuguegarao City,Cagayan Valley ages ago (permalink). chez.petrus says O Pure and Immaculate Prayer O pure and immaculate and likewise blessed Virgin, who art the sinless Mother of thy Son, the mighty Lord of the universe, thou who art inviolate and altogether holy, the hope of the hopeless and sinful, we sing thy praises. We bless thee, as full of every grace, thou who didst bear the God-Man: we bow low before thee; we invoke thee and implore thine aid.