



# Celebrate Home

## Immaculate Conception

by Jackie Lois

My granddaughter introduced me to a word that she had tattooed on her forearm in plain view, she was *“Too great or extreme to be expressed or described in words.”* Pope and a bunch of folks used the same word to describe Mary and why we might worship her.



I recently attended online Mass to celebrate A Feast Day for Mothers. It was really quite lovely. It has been many years since I went to Mass. However, I have found myself moved to prayer most days, these days. As you would imagine, I pray mostly to Mary in all her mysterious glory to intercede on behalf of all Mothers. It is a simple prayer, probably one that I first learned in my childhood. It goes like this...

***Hail Mary***  
*Full of Grace*  
*The Lord is with Thee*  
*Blessed are you Among Women*  
*Blessed is the Fruit of thy Womb*  
***Jesus.***

It is the foundation of the Rosary, a calming and repetitive devotion that is an integral part of a long held ritual often enjoyed during Advent, the season leading up to the birth of the Christ and all of the celebratory events we associate with Christmas.

You don't have to be Catholic, or even religious, to imagine what it might be like for you in the days before the birth of your little one. In addition to feeling fat, and wholly unready for the task at hand and how you might ever care for a little One; you hope for a moment of calm and the knowledge that all indeed will be well. It can be very reassuring to know that God is within you.

The tale is really quite magical, that a Virgin gives birth.

There is NO sin, Original or otherwise, and this was known well before your (Mary's) conception. Her mother (the baby's grandmother) Anne knew and it was foretold that her conception was like no other and that She alone would give birth and nurture someone incredibly special who would save the world because of her Divine Love and Grace.

Today no matter what, I hope and pray that you feel special and wonderful and capable of even the impossible. Spirit's got your back and you need not worry about the details.

**In case you have forgotten, you are truly Divine!**

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Advent Scripture Reference Lectionary  
[Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19](#); [2 Samuel 7:23-29](#); [John 3:31-36](#)

Advent Hymn Reflection  
“[Joy to the World](#)”  
performed by Maverick City Music,  
featuring Naomi Raine & Todd Galberth



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