



Catholic Church

215 South 8th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402

December 8, 2023
Friday of the
First Week of Advent



Good morning!

Today we celebrate the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We read Genesis 3:9-15, 20, Psalm 98, Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12, and Luke 1:26-38. "Who told you that you were naked?" We are our most vulnerable when we are naked. "You must have eaten from the tree of which I had forbidden you to eat!" Original sin entered the world. We celebrate today that Mary was chosen and when she was conceived, she did not bear the mark of original sin. We carry the mark but it is cleansed at baptism. We have received many spiritual blessings and are called to live lives "holy and without blemish." God's grace fills us to turn away from the "serpent" of the world and to find our lives favored by God. We were created in God's image and likeness and God said, "This is good." Were we ever told we were not good enough, we'd account for nothing? Mary's "yes" to bringing Jesus into the world came from the depth of her being, not blemished but freed. We were freed at baptism but blemished by our human nature as we might carry guilt, shame, hurt, or pain. Why let the "serpent" of the world hold us captives when we can be freed in Jesus and carry Jesus with us into the world? God sends us God's grace and favor, let us respond as Mary did, "May it be done to me according to your word."

Peace,

RevKev

"Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous deeds."

<http://www.bible.usccb.org/>