

The Annunciation of the Lord



Stained Glass Inc. Panel 1686: Annunciation

ANNUNCIATION

Before **Christ the Savior** was born to the **Virgin Mary**, the **Archangel Gabriel** delivered the joyous news to her from **God**. Despite being afraid, **Mary** accepted the will of the **Lord**. Creators of ecclesiastic stained glass **windows** throughout the ages have depicted this miraculous scene in various ways, but many pieces show **Mary kneeling before the angel** and receiving the news with humility and grace. The scene is a popular choice for church **windows** in part because of the wondrous nature of the event. The **Annunciation** can also help remind parishioners that they, like **Mary**, should be willing to place their trust in **God** and His **wisdom**.

THE STORY OF THE ANNUNCIATION

Described in the Bible in the **Book of Luke**, the **Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary** is the moment that **Mary** finds out she will bear the **son of the Lord**. **She has already promised her hand in marriage to Joseph** when the **Archangel Gabriel** appears to her. He tells **Mary** that she is highly favored by **God** and blessed among women. **Mary** is shaken and frightened by the vision, and questions how she could possibly bear a child when she is still a **virgin**. The words of the **angel** bring her comfort and peace.



Stained Glass Inc. Panel 1111: The Annunciation of the Lord

THE STORY OF THE ANNUNCIATION CONTINUED

It is from *God's messenger* that *Mary* learns just how special her son will be—He will be known as the *Son of God and His kingdom* will be everlasting. *Mary* is told she will conceive through the *Holy Spirit*, and humbly declares herself the *handmaid of the Lord*. Although religious stained glass works depicting the *Annunciation* usually show *Mary and Gabriel* only, *Elizabeth* is also mentioned by the *angel*. *Gabriel* tells *Mary* that though her cousin was thought to be barren, she currently carried a child in her womb. After *Mary* conceived, she went to visit her cousin and saw for herself that *Elizabeth* was six months pregnant. The child she carried was a son who would become known as *John the Baptist*.

A separate *Annunciation*, described in the *Gospel of Matthew*, is made to *Joseph*. When he learns *Mary* is pregnant he naturally suspects her of being unfaithful. To put his mind at ease, an *angel* appears to *Joseph* in a dream and tells him he should not refuse to *wed Mary*. The baby she carries was conceived without sin through the *Holy Spirit*, and will be called *Jesus*.

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