

# What wondrous gifts our God has given us!

## The Annunciation of Our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos

March 25

“Rejoice, for you are the throne of the king,  
rejoice for you bear him who bears all things.”

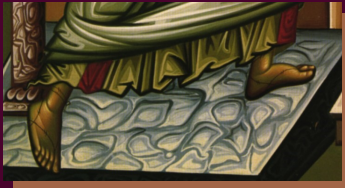
- + The Archangel Gabriel came to the Panagia to announce that she would conceive and bear a Son, even though she "knew no man."
- + In the icon, he carries a staff, a symbol of being a messenger.
- + The name of the feast in Greek (Ευαγγελισμός—Evangelismos) means literally “Good News.”



- + The Archangel's right hand is extended toward the Panagia as he announces the blessing that is being bestowed upon her.
- + He greets her with these words: “Rejoice, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women” (Luke 1, 28-29).



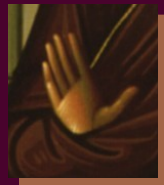
- + Note the position of Archangel Gabriel's feet as he runs to share the good news with the Theotokos.
- + We are called to act similarly when God sends us!



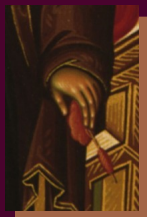
- + The Mother of God sits on an elevated seat, showing that she is “*greater in honor than the cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the seraphim.*”
- + Her veil bears three stars used to represent her ever-virginity: before, during, and after Christ's birth.



- + Her right hand is shown upwards: a gesture that may indicate both surprise at news beyond understanding, and acceptance of God's will.
- + Her posture, with her head lowered also shows humility and acceptance.
- + She gives her whole self freely to God, submitting to His will.



- + The Panagia holds a spindle of scarlet thread in her left hand.
- + Holy Tradition tells us as Christ's Body begins to be woven in her womb, she was weaving a purple and scarlet curtain for the tabernacle in the Temple...the very one that is torn in two at the moment of His death on the Cross.



## What can we give back?

