

December 4, 2016

SECOND SUNDAY

of
Advent



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John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying,
“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”

Matthew 3:1

The Parish Communities of : St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church ~ St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

Physical & mailing address: 1708 East Tenth Street, Merrill, WI 54452

Physical address: N4887 Hwy 17, Bloomville

Parish Directory

- Parish Office.....536-2803
- Pastor — Father Chris Kemp.....536-2803 ext. 218
- Retired Clergy — Father Joseph Kleinheinz.....536-2803
- Deacon — Jim Arndt.....536-2803 ext. 215
- Parish Secretary — Kris Leggett.....536-2803 ext. 202
- Financial Assistant — Laura Reiter.....536-2803 ext. 219
- Parish Outreach— Sr. Dolores Lilla.....536-7487
- DRE — Joe Velie.....536-2803 ext. 222
- Music Director — Mary Ament.....536-2803 ext. 230
- Building Maintenance Supervisor — John Hanson.....536-2803 ext. 221
- Custodian — Wolfgang Lenk.....536-2803 ext. 221
- Cemetery Sexton — John Hanson
- Parish Council Chairs — Dr. Robert Sedlacek (SFX), Anne Schoone (SJB)
- Trustees St. Francis Xavier — Pat Buckett (Pastoral) Jim Brickner (Finance)
- Trustees St. John the Baptist — Jim St. Mary, Leona Vander Sanden
- Liturgy Committee — Pete McConnell (SFX), Angela Frick (SJB)
- School Committee — Kate Shimel, Tracy Creel, Michelle Evans, Scott Nelson, Rick Meehan
- Religious Education — Maraline Collins
- School Principal — Sonja Doughty536-6083
- School Secretary — Cindy Gennrich.....536-6083
- Knights of Columbus — Jim Finucan, Grand Knight.....539-3450

Parish Website: www.stfrancismerrill.org
Staff email addresses are listed on the parish website

- St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store.....539-1131
- St. Vincent de Paul Outreach.....539-2666
- St. Vincent Free Clinic.....539-9566
- Merrill Community Food Pantry.....536-4505

Mass Schedule (SJB-St. John Baptist SFX-St. Francis Xavier)

- Weekend Mass**
- Saturday..... 4:00 PM at SFX
- Sunday.....7:45 AM & 9:30 AM SFX
- Sunday.....11:30 AM at SJB
- Weekday Mass**
- Tuesday..... 6:00 PM at SFX
- Wednesday.....9:00 AM at SFX
- Thursday9:00 AM at SJB and 10:30 AM at Pine Crest
- Friday.....8:00 AM at SFX

Reconciliation Times (and by appointment)

- Saturday.....9:00 AM & 3:00 PM (SFX)
- Tuesday.....5:30 PM (SFX) Wednesday....8:15 AM (SFX)
- 1st Sunday of the month12:30 PM (SJB)
- Parish Office Hours: Monday 12:30-4:00 PM**
- Tuesday-Thursday 8:00 AM-4:00 PM**
- Friday 8:00 AM-3:00 PM**
- (closed daily 12-12:30 for lunch)**

We appreciate the advertisers who support our bulletin:

Dave's County Market
715.536.2571



Come and Join Us

Friends of Jesus Charismatic Prayer Group:
Our next meeting is December 7th in Tomahawk.
Everyone is welcome to join us.

Men of St. Joseph Prayer Group:
Meet every Thursday from 6-7 PM in SFX Cafeteria

Moms in Prayer:
Meetings vary. Call Irene at 536-9430.

Eucharistic Adoration:
In "The Little Flower Chapel" Sun-Thur, 5AM-12AM
Friday 5AM-10PM, Saturday 5AM-11 AM

Evening Prayer:
Wednesday at 5:45 PM in "The Little Flower Chapel"

Rosary:
St. Francis: Tuesday @ 5:30 PM & Friday @ 7:30 AM
St. John's :Thursdays @ 8:30 AM
and Pine Crest on Saturdays @ 9:30AM

St. John the Baptist Thursday Social Time:
Every Thursday following 9:00 AM Mass

Little Knights Playgroup:
We will meet every Friday from 9-10:30 AM when school is in session. You may ring the bell at door #7 for entrance.



THE SANCTUARY LIGHTS at SFX in "The Little Flower" Chapel burn in memory of: **Andrew Fischer.** Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord. May the perpetual light shine upon him.

PRAYER CHAIN: Please call Kris at the Parish Office with your prayer chain requests. You may leave a message if necessary. The messages are checked daily even on weekends.



SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK
December 5, 2016



- Monday:** Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26
- Tuesday:** Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14
- Wednesday:** Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30
- Thursday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
- Friday:** Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19
- Saturday:** Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
- Sunday:** Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

Smart Phone users: Download the "Laudate" App and you can get daily readings sent right to your phone.

Weekly Schedule: December 5-11, 2016

Monday 12/5	Tuesday 12/6	Wednesday 12/7	Thursday 12/8	Friday 12/9	Saturday 12/10	Sunday 12/11
Fr. Chris' Day Off 6:00 PM SFX Safe Environment	5:30 PM SFX Reconciliation 6:00 PM SFX Mass 6:45 PM SFX Family Choir	8:15 AM SFX Reconciliation 9:00 AM SFX Mass 3:15 PM SFX children's choir 6:00 PM SFX Vigil Mass Immaculate Conception* <i>*Vigil Mass attendance required for religious ed and confirmation students tonight.</i>	9:00 AM SFX Mass Immaculate Conception 10:30 AM Pine Crest Mass 6:00 PM SJB Mass Immaculate Conception 6:00 PM Men of St. Joseph 6:00 PM RCIA 6:30 PM SFX Bell Choir	8:00 AM SFX Mass	9:00 AM SFX Reconciliation 3:00 PM SFX Reconciliation 4:00 PM SFX Mass <i>PIES for POTTIES being sold after Mass</i>	7:45 AM SFX Mass 9:30 AM SFX Mass 11:30 AM SJB Mass <i>PIES for POTTIES being sold after Masses</i>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> SFX=St. Francis Xavier SJB= St. John the Baptist </div>						

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

December 7, 6 PM:
 Readers: Pat Bucket, Mary Ann VDG
 Servers: Anna, Molly, Matthew Rydeski
 Greeters/Ushers: K. Cournaya, Tony & Sara Gessler, Mary Rheinschmidt

December 10-11, 2016:
 Readers:
 4:00 PM (SFX) Faith & Olivia Wheat
 7:45 AM (SFX) Katy & Mary Ball
 9:30 AM (SFX) Evelyn Lee & Barb McConnell
 Servers:
 4:00 PM (SFX) Tessa & Gwen Wheat
 7:45 AM (SFX) Brian Ball & Cassie Fowler
 9:30 AM (SFX) Jayden Anderson & Madison Nyman
 Greeters/Ushers:
 4:00 PM (SFX) Don MacSwain, Joe Folta, Volunteers
 7:45 AM (SFX) Tom Ball, Ben & Joan Tabor, Mark Weix Sr.
 9:30 AM (SFX) Christian Lee, Brant & Neil Raleigh, Amanda Bacon

SCRIP sellers:
 4:00 PM (SFX) Kelly Wheat
 7:45 AM (SFX) Betty Weix & Barb E. Adams
 9:30 AM (SFX) Wendy Arndt & Jim Bares

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST at Park Place
 December 11, 2016: Dale Palecek

ROSARY LEADER at Pine Crest
 December 10, 2016: Mark Bares

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEER
 Week of December 11, 2016: Roman & Carol Peterson

MASS INTENTIONS Week of December 5, 2016

Tuesday
 6:00 PM (SFX) Intention: †Charles Pierotti
 By: Tom & Mary Jo Sazama

Wednesday
 9:00 AM (SFX) Intention: †Patsy Tomajcik
 By: Marv & Mary Anderson
 6:00 PM (SFX) *Vigil of Immaculate Conception*
 Intention: People of the Parishes

Thursday (Feast of the Immaculate Conception)
 9:00 AM (SFX) Intention: †Judith Erickson
 By: Family
 6:00 PM (SJB) Intention: †Jody Mittlestaedt
 By: Richard & Barb Hensen

Friday
 8:00 AM (SFX) Intention: †Donna Tomajcik
 By: Marv & Mary Anderson

Saturday
 4:00 PM (SFX) Intention: †Roy Drew
 By: Family

Sunday
 7:45 AM (SFX) Intention: †Geno & Florence Bosi
 By: Family
 9:30 AM (SFX) Intention: †Nancy Ellenbecker
 By: Pete Ellenbecker
 11:30 AM (SJB) Intention: †Special Intention
 By: Jim & Joyce St. Mary

SACRAMENTS

Baptism: Please call the parish office to schedule a baptism. You must be a registered and contributing member of the parish to have your child receive this sacrament.

Anointing of the sick: This sacrament is available upon request by calling the parish office. Please do not wait until it becomes an emergency because a priest will not always be immediately available.

Parish News



PASTOR'S CORNER by: Fr. Chris

The Great Set Up! It is one way to describe what is being brought forth in today's readings. And so we begin, in our first reading from Isaiah, how he is describing what is yet to come, a new Davidic Kingdom. "A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom." As we know, Jesse is the father of David, and for anyone who is in the Davidic line, this is dangerous. Why? Because such persons would be seen as a threat to the governing body and thus sought after by the governing body, so they would be extinguished. This was done to protect the position of those who are governing the Kingdom. Yet, there is much more to this reading, "The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom, understanding, council, strength, knowledge, and fear of the Lord." Hopefully these sound familiar. These are the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Lastly, today's first reading ends with there being peace on this holy mountain which is being set up. And, "All the nations will seek it out, for his dwelling shall be glorious."

In our Gospel from Matthew, John the Baptist is setting up more than his way of baptizing. Notice how he treats the Pharisees and Sadducees, he calls them "A brood of vipers!" and tells them to "Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance." And John does not refrain from what is yet to come when he says "An ax lies at the root of the trees," it means that their lineage (the Pharisees and Sadducees), is about to be cut down. So you may be asking why all of this hostility between John and the religious establishment? Because John is establishing something new, and I'll try to give a sense of what is taking place here. Notice how the people are coming down from Jerusalem and the Temple and they are coming to him. Also, whenever you went into the Temple, you were to be cleansed by going through a ritual washing in a pool. This was called a Mikveh. The religious leaders see that John was also doing a ritual cleansing. He was offering a baptism of repentance for the people. But even more, the religious leaders see how he is setting the foundations for The One who is to come after him! It is a direct threat to what they believe and hold to be right. Yet, as we know by being able to look back, John was paving the way for Jesus and His Kingdom coming into the world. During this Advent season, may we also grow in appreciation and understanding of what has been set up for us, by Jesus' coming into the world.

**Knights of Columbus
Breakfast with Santa
Sunday, December 18, 2016
8 AM-11:30 AM**

**Serving: Pancakes, sausage, eggs,
milk and coffee**

Cost: Your free will offering helps support our meal for the Wednesday night confirmation program.



Please pray for the following parishioners of both parishes who are in need of your prayers. Also remember the residents in our nursing homes and hospitals. Names remain on the list for 4 weeks. Call Kris at the parish office to put someone on this list.
Jim Peterson, Phil Sheil, and Dee Bonkoski.

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary ~ Holy Day of Obligation



**Wednesday Vigil, December 7, 6:00 PM at SFX
Thursday, December 8, 9 AM at SFX
Thursday, December 8, 6 PM at SJB**

**Please remember the 9:00 AM Wednesday morning Mass on Dec. 7th does not satisfy the holy day obligation requirement. You must attend the vigil Mass at 6:00 PM on Dec. 7th or the one of the Thursday Dec. 8th Masses.



Cemetery Wreaths For Sale

Christmas Wreaths on metal easels will be available to purchase for \$25.00 this Christmas Season. We will place the wreath on your loved one's grave with a stand. You may also purchase a wreath for your home (\$22.00) or a kissing ball (\$35.00). These will not come with stands. Please fill out the form below and send it to the parish office with your check payable to St. Francis Xavier Parish. All proceeds will go to the cemetery.

Your Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Grave name: _____

(If you want a wreath \$22 or kissing ball \$35 for your home instead, You will have to pick it up at parish office. check here _____)

Kissing Balls available for your home only. Please order me: _____ kissing balls -\$35.00 each

Deadline to place your order is:
December 9.
This is your last chance to order!

SFX School News

Our SFX family gathered to celebrate Thanksgiving and all our blessings. We don't have a typical "kids table" like most families, we have 1 **extra long** "kids table" that stretches the length of our cafeteria!!!



Pies for Potties December 10-11, 2016

Our school needs to replace toilets and update plumbing at the expense of \$40,000! We have already received an anonymous donation of \$10,000, so we are on our way! Our first fundraiser is "Pies for Potties." The Marv & Mary Anderson Family and Friends will be selling their famous home made pies the weekend of December 10 & 11 after all 3 Masses. These are the perfect complement to your Holiday Meal:

Apple Pie \$10.00
Lemon Meringue Pie \$10.00
Pecan Pie \$12.00



SCRIP News....Get ready for Christmas with SCRIP

⇒Are you an on-line shopper? SCRIP gift cards work online! You will be earning money for our school while you Christmas Shop! There will be no lines to stand in and you won't have a big credit card bill next month.

⇒The parish office has a small inventory of these places for Christmas: Texas Roadhouse, I-Tunes, Buffalo Wild Wings, Red Robin, and Aeropostale,

⇒Need a little something for that special person? Babysitter, neighbor, mailman, teacher? These SCRIP cards come in \$5.00 amounts: 1st Street Coffee, McDonald's, Culver's, Hardee's, Hugo's, Cosmo Theater, Studio 808, and CHIPS.

⇒Still don't know what to buy someone? The parish office sells SCRIP gift certificates in any amount! The person you give it to can pick out the SCRIP of their choice.

Religious Education News

K-8 and Confirmation: There will be a Vigil Mass at 6 pm December 7 for the Holy Day of Obligation for the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Religious education and Confirmation students will come to the check in table for attendance purposes and then sit with their class unless they wish to sit with family. Mass may not conclude exactly at 7 pm. (MASS Start time was incorrect last week)

Safe Environment Training: There is a scheduled training on Monday, December 5 at 6 pm at St. Francis Xavier in the conference room. Please enter at door 3. This training, along with a background check, is required training for anyone who works with minors in the parishes by the Diocese of Superior.

The Men of St. Joseph Prayer Group



The Men of St. Joseph is a group of active lay Catholic Men dedicated to becoming the spiritual leaders of our families by strengthening our faith, being "real world" examples of Christ, and supporting one another in our efforts to become the best version of ourselves. Understanding, that as

we commit ourselves to this proposition we will also significantly influence our communities and The Catholic Church, the Body of Christ incarnate.

Through prayer and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Men of St. Joseph have dedicated themselves to the following mission: "**Put the family in the hands of the Father.**"

SFX has started a local chapter of The Men of St. Joseph. Men meet on Thursday evenings from 6:00-7:00 PM in the school cafeteria to strengthen their prayer lives, learn to become spiritual leaders of their families, and learn more about their Catholic faith. This group is dedicated to giving men the spiritual tools and structure they need to make real changes in their lives and the lives of their families. If you are interested in becoming a member, please consider attending a meeting.

Free Advent Materials are now located on the tables near the main entrance to church, as well as by the courtyard doors. You will want to check out these great ways to prepare for Christmas.

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Would you like to have the BEST ADVENT EVER? Visit www.dynamiccatholic.com and sign up for daily emails that will change your life!

Did you notice our new Advent Banners? If you would like to make a donation to purchase a banner in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special day please call Laura in the finance office.

Flower envelope: We greatly appreciate your generous donation to our Christmas Flower and decoration collection. You may use your envelope in your packet for this purpose.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH –October 2016 Financial Report

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>Oct 2016</u>	<u>July -Oct 2016</u>		
Collections	\$37,908.84	\$144,115.75		
Debt Relief/2nd Collection	\$3,084.75	\$13,969.09		
Fund Raising In-School Income	\$5,018.97	\$80,501.02		
	\$30,251.18	\$92,461.28		
Religious Educa-Cemetery Income	\$800.00	\$7,595.00		
	\$175.00	\$10,920.00		
Faith in Our Future	\$0.00	\$6,208.42		
Gifts, Bequests, Memorials	\$100.00	\$2,430.52		
Other Income (Grants/fees/candles,etc.)	<u>\$3,884.18</u>	<u>\$15,829.11</u>		
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$81,222.92</u>	<u>\$374,030.19</u>		
<u>EXPENSE</u>				
Wages/Benefits	\$69,290.29	\$256,479.92		
Utilities	\$3,019.03	\$9,924.63		
Insurance (Non-employment)	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Office equip/	\$1,370.55	\$3,420.48		
Upkeep/	\$8,374.54	\$14,823.68		
School Expenses	\$7,038.77	\$19,303.22		
Liturgy/Music	\$3,597.61	\$7,742.87		
Fundraising ex-	\$1,612.07	\$45,829.05		
Ministry expenses (Rel. Ed.,Evang., & Outreach)	\$1,434.30	\$9,494.83		
Cemetery Expenses	\$1,253.29	\$6,782.75		
Faith in Our Future Expenditures	\$0.00	\$6,208.42		
2015-16 CSA expense	\$0.00	\$21,060.00		
Interest Expense	\$808.48	\$3,259.28		
Other Expenses	<u>\$307.86</u>	<u>\$702.49</u>		
TOTAL EXPENSES-	<u>\$98,106.79</u>	<u>\$405,031.62</u>		
NET INCOME (LOSS)	<u>(\$16,883.87)</u>	<u>(\$31,001.43)</u>		
<u>DEBTS</u>	<u>10/31/2016</u>	<u>06/30/2016</u>	<u>INVESTMENTS AS OF 10/31/16</u>	
Lincoln Community	\$93,002.17	\$106,952.47	Checking Accounts	\$38,482.94
LCB - Roof Loan	\$76,262.24	\$82,470.66	Scrip Checking Account	\$13,948.59
St. Theresa Parish	\$120,314.39	\$124,407.21	Scrip Inventory	\$31,187.91
Accounts Payable	<u>\$49,209.08</u>	<u>\$26,001.15</u>	Cemetery Funds	\$29,490.35
TOTAL	<u>\$338,787.88</u>	<u>\$339,831.49</u>	Heck Investments (Building Fund)	\$210,808.79
			Money Market Fund (Savings)	\$15,505.16
			Debt Relief Fund*	<u>\$75,976.32</u>
			TOTAL	<u>\$415,400.06</u>

*2nd Collection is deposited into Debt Relief Fund.

* Payments on St. Theresa Loan and Lincoln Bank are made from this fund each month.

St. John the Baptist—Bloomville, WI

Parish Support—November 20, 2016

<u>Actual Amount of envelopes & loose:</u>	\$1167.72
<u>Amount Needed for the budget:</u>	\$1069.23
<u>Over (Under) Since 7/1/16:</u>	(\$2473.18)

Who's Who:

Trustees: Jim St. Mary, Leona Vander Sanden
 Parish Council: Anne Schoone (Chair), Paul Polacek
 Joe Zimmerman, Kris Block, and Bernie Ineichen

Liturgical Ministries— December 11, 2016

Readers: Gayle Dobson, Karen Polacek
 Greeters/Ushers: Jim Feuerstein, Perry Block
 Servers: Volunteers
 Volunteers are needed for the Immaculate Conception
 Mass Thursday, December 8th at 6 PM.

Parish News:

- ⇒ **2017 Envelopes:** The contribution envelopes for 2017 are now available to pick up at St. John the Baptist Church. If you do not see your name, please call Laura at the parish office, 715-536-2803, and she will set you up!
- ⇒ **Today is our Christmas Bazaar!** We are serving a great Chicken Dinner after Mass. You will also want to catch our sweepstakes raffle drawing, our basket raffles and Christmas Table. The winners will be announced in an upcoming bulletin.
- ⇒ **Our parish is in need of lectors and ushers.** Many of the same people are being called on to fill these rolls every week. Please prayerfully consider volunteering. If you are interested please call Kris in the parish office. Thank you.
- ⇒ Don't forget that SCRIP is available at the parish office for all your Christmas shopping!

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE MONTH ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2016

INCOME	Oct. 2016	July-Oct 2016
Collections	\$6,194.51	\$17,795.93
Fund Raising	309.08	4,558.08
Faith in Our Future	0.00	258.12
Cemetery Income	500.00	500.00
Candles, Flowers, Gifts, etc.	61.56	322.45
Other Income (Fees, Interest, etc)	<u>103.72</u>	<u>486.01</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$7,168.87	\$23,920.59
EXPENSES		
Wages/Benefits	\$3,670.29	\$11,945.96
Office expenses	59.50	70.00
Utilities	265.18	3,735.55
Insurance	0.00	0.00
Upkeep/maint.	34.00	410.86
Fundraising exp	0.00	1,148.13
Ministry expenses	1,010.19	2,612.81
Cemetery Expenses	0.00	65.00
2015-2016 CSA	0.00	6,000.00
Other expenses	<u>1,600.00</u>	<u>1,600.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$6,639.16	\$27,588.31
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$529.71	(\$3,667.72)
INVESTMENTS 10/31/2016		
Checking Account	\$1,098.06	
Cemetery Funds	17,451.53	
Covantage Credit Union	<u>215,510.14</u>	
TOTAL	\$234,059.73	

OUR GIFTS TO OUR LORD

For the weekend of Nov. 26 - 27, 2016

<u>St. Francis</u>	Actual	Amt needed	Over (Under) since 7/1/16
Adult Envelopes	\$8,143.00	\$7,834.62	(\$21,228.03)
Loose Collection	\$331.54	\$282.69	\$5.17
ACH giving	\$330.00	\$1,192.31	\$959.18
Debt Relief	<u>\$331.32</u>	<u>\$826.92</u>	<u>(\$1,105.58)</u>
TOTAL	\$9,135.86	\$10,136.54	(\$21,369.26)

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist urges us to "Prepare the way of the Lord." This is what Advent is all about, for we are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our family and to reach out to those in need. *Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can help the suffering and poor to celebrate Christmas.*



December 8, 2016 will mark the 8th anniversary of the Eucharistic Adoration Chapel. Thank you to the hundreds of volunteers who continue their commitment to our chapel. For the past 2000 years, Catholics have believed that Jesus is truly present in the most Holy Eucharist. Therefore, we can gaze upon Jesus and worship Him in his physical presence. Advent is the perfect season to do just that! Adorers are needed Sunday at 1 PM, Saturday at 5 AM, 11 AM, Noon, Monday at 9 AM. If you are interested in becoming an adorer, a sub, or a prayer partner, please call Phil or Mary Ziesemer at 715-536-4825. Thank you.



From Ann Jaroski, artist of the picture of Mary hanging in church: "I drew this image of the young Virgin Mary in the moment she hears the Angel Gabriel speaking to her. I can't imagine the deep faith she had at such a young age. I hope this piece reflects her youth and willingness to follow God."



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