

Quote by Saint Pope John XXIII

“What gentleness and charm in this three months’ visit made by Mary to her beloved cousin! Each of them is about to bear a child but, for the Virgin Mother, this is the most sacred maternity that it is possible to imagine on earth.

Their two souls mingle and respond in a sweet harmony: “*Blessed are you among women*” (Lk 1:42), on the one hand and, on the other, “*God, my Savior, has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden, for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed*” (Lk 1:48).

What takes place here, at Ain-Karim on the hill of Hebron, sheds a light, both very human and divine, on the relations that bind Christian families, brought up in the ancient tradition of the Holy Rosary – the Rosary recited every evening at home, in the family circle, the Rosary recited not just in or a hundred or a thousand families but by every family, by everyone, everywhere in the world, wherever there is one of us “*Suffering, fighting and praying*” someone who has answered a call to the Priesthood or to Missionary service or to a dream which will turn out to be an apostolate, or wherever men are constrained by those legitimate, if obligatory demands of labor or trade, military service, study, teaching or any other occupation.

There is a beautiful reunion, during the ten Hail Mary’s of the Mystery, of so many countless souls, linked together by blood or by domestic ties, in a relationship which hallows and, thereby strengthens, the love that binds our dearest ones together – parents and children, brothers and relations, people from the same locality, people of the same race. All this, with the purpose and intention of sustaining, increasing, and irradiating that universal charity, the exercise of which is the most profound joy and supreme honor, of our lives.”

Socials with the Saints

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Sources include: catholic.org; ewtn, usccb.org

St. Elizabeth ***Wife, Mother, Cousin of the Virgin Mary***



Born: Circa 1st century A.D. in Benevento, Italy
Died: Circa 1st century A.D. in Naples, Italy
Patronage: Barren Women, pregnant women
Feast Day: November 5

What we know of St. Elizabeth comes from the Gospel of Luke. Elizabeth, a daughter of the line of Aaron, and the wife of Zechariah, was "righteous before God" and was "blameless" but childless. Elizabeth is also a cousin to the Virgin Mary. Elizabeth’s name means "God is faithful."

In the Gospel of Luke, chapter 1, verses 5-7: We read the days of Herod, King of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah of the priestly division of Abijah; his wife was from the daughters of Aaron (was the brother of Moses and the first High Priest of the Israelites), and her name was Elizabeth. Both were righteous in the eyes of God, observing all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blamelessly. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren and both were advanced in years.

Once when he was serving as priest in his division’s turn before God, according to the practice of the priestly service, he was chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to burn incense. Then, when the whole assembly of the people was praying outside at the hour of the incense offering, the angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right of the altar of incense.

Zechariah was troubled by what he saw, and fear came upon him. But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall name him John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth,

for he will be great in the sight of [the] Lord. He will drink neither wine nor strong drink. * He will be filled with the holy Spirit even from his mother's womb, and he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah to turn the hearts of fathers toward children and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous, to prepare a people fit for the Lord."

Then Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years."

And the angel said to him in reply, "I am Gabriel, who stand before God. I was sent to speak to you and to announce to you this good news.

But now you will be speechless and unable to talk until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled at their proper time."

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and were amazed that he stayed so long in the sanctuary. But when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He was gesturing to them but remained mute.

Elizabeth is old, so Zechariah doesn't believe the angel of the Lord. Their child will grow up to become John the Baptist... After John's birth, Zechariah gets his voice back.

Elizabeth is best known for being the first to recognize Jesus as the Messiah, even before his birth. While they were both pregnant, Mary visited Elizabeth, and John leapt in Elizabeth's womb when Mary arrived. Elizabeth announced that Mary and her unborn child were blessed. She also called Mary blessed for having believed God's promise. Elizabeth's proclamation has become part of the Hail Mary.

Mary visited with Elizabeth for three months, both women pregnant with child. After Mary returned home, Elizabeth gave birth to a son and named him John. This child was chosen by God to be John the Baptist. John would baptize Christ. Although Elizabeth's neighbors assumed the child would be named Zechariah, her husband insisted that John be his name. This astonished the neighbors, for there were no men named John in Elizabeth's family, but Zechariah's insistence

ended the debate. At the moment, Zechariah insisted that they obey the will of God, and name him John, his speech returned.

After this, there is no more mention in the Bible about Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth encounters Mary, the child in her womb leaps. His conception and birth are a leap of faith. At his circumcision, instead of receiving a traditional family name, the child is named John, which means "gift of God." Grace makes possible what the Law and tradition could never merit or conceive.

John is set apart in his role as precursor. He is the last of the Old Covenant prophets, but he will usher in the new covenant. He is the greatest person ever born, but less than the lowliest disciple in the Kingdom of God. His preparation takes place in the wilderness that recapitulates the void out of which a new creation will be summoned. He will baptize Jesus in the River Jordan.

The Hail Mary

Hail Mary, Full of Grace, The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church #2675 states: "Beginning with Mary's unique cooperation with the working of the Holy Spirit, the Churches developed their prayer to the holy Mother of God, centering it on the Person of Christ manifested in His mysteries. In countless hymns and antiphons expressing this prayer, two movements usually alternate with one another: the first 'magnifies' the Lord for the 'great things' He did for His lowly servant and through her for all human beings. The second entrusts the supplications and praises of the children of God to the Mother of Jesus, because she now knows the humanity which, in her, the Son of God espoused.