

April 8, 2024: The Anunciation

He has risen!

On this first Monday after the Easter Octave, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Annunciation. This Solemnity was moved from March 25, which fell on Holy Week this year, to the first Monday after the Easter Octave, which ended on the Second Sunday of Easter with Divine Mercy Sunday. Because the Annunciation was moved to Monday, April 8, it now coincides with a Solar Eclipse, where the sun is hidden by the moon.

With that opening I would like to share this: At the cross Jesus says to John, "Behold your mother." So Jesus gives His mother to John. John represents the Church, so Mary is now given to us: as our mother and the Mother of God, she knows sorrow, yet she is our Future; she was taken up into Heaven at the Assumption; and at the Annunciation she was given the Light. With that said, here is a simple reflection on the Annunciation and the Eclipse of the sun due to the moon moving between the sun and the earth.

*"The moon rarely blocks the sun entirely, but every year the lunar cycle determines the date of Easter, and much else depends on that. So the Feast of the Annunciation is also on the move this year, transferred from its usual spot March 25 – which fell during Holy Week – to April 8, the first day after Holy Week and the Easter Octave.*

*The coincidence of an eclipse with the Annunciation suggests that the movement of the moon might be a matter for spiritual meditation. Mary is the woman with the moon at her feet and clothed with the sun. (Revelation 12:1) The moon is an apt Christian symbol for the Blessed Mother, as the moon has no light of its own, but reflects the light of the sun; Mary reflects the light of her Son upon the face of the earth. But the moon is not merely decorative; its gravitational pull keeps the earth in balance.*

*The Annunciation gives a proper spiritual interpretation of a solar eclipse. For that singular moment in Nazareth, the moon determined whether the sunlight – the Son's light – would reach the world."*

*A solar eclipse might remind us that in Nazareth at that singular moment (although the sun was hidden within the moon): The yes of our Lady "always reflecting" the light allows for the world to receive the light.*

ALSO FROM MY FRIENDS AT EWTN:

This Sunday we celebrated Divine Mercy Sunday. This feast was granted to the Universal Church by Pope St. John Paul II in 2000 to be celebrated on the Second Sunday of Easter.

Concerning this Feast of Mercy, Jesus said to St. Faustina: "Whoever approaches the Fountain of Life on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment" (Diary, 300). What a beautiful opportunity to celebrate God's love and compassion for us!

We have [a special page dedicated to Divine Mercy Sunday](#). On this page, we answer questions such as:

- Why is 3 o'clock so important for practicing a devotion to Divine Mercy?
- What does the image of Divine Mercy mean?
- What are the promises of Divine Mercy?
- What are the requirements for Divine Mercy Sunday?

On this page, we offer a free eBook, Divine Mercy Novena. Each day of the novena has a different intention that is dear to the Heart of Jesus, including all sinners, priests and Religious, souls of children, those in Purgatory, and lukewarm souls.

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On Divine Mercy Sunday, IOP celebrated a Holy Hour at 3pm with a Divine Mercy Chaplet and a talk. Thank you to all who joined us yesterday to celebrate God's Mercy, next year come join us!

In Christ,  
Your EWTN Family and Father Vic Gournas