

DECEMBER 12 2025 BISHOP ROBERT KASUN

Most of us, I suppose, are really quite familiar with today's Holy Gospel—an excerpt from the beginning of St. Luke's gospel. It is a beautiful story with eloquent language that is almost poetic. And it speaks to us so beautifully of the impression that the Saviour in the womb of our Blessed Mother has on other people.

As you know, Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth who was reportedly a much older woman than was common for childbearing. That is the stated reason why Mary chose to visit Elizabeth—to assist her with the pregnancy and with caring for the child after the child was born. We call this story "the story of the visitation of Mary to Elizabeth."

St. Luke wastes no time in getting to the main point of the story. When Mary got close to the home of Elizabeth, Mary sang out a greeting to her cousin Elizabeth. Elizabeth, hearing the greeting, says, "When I heard your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy."

Think about that. How beautiful it is—how we might long for that same type of experience when we hear the name of Jesus—that we, too, would become filled with the Holy Spirit and filled with joy.

Mary then responds, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour." To magnify, as we all know, means to enlarge, to make bigger, to make it more visible. And that is her role—to magnify her son Jesus.

We too can come to a deeper experience of the Holy Spirit and the joy that accompanies Jesus, particularly during the Advent season as we draw closer to the great feast of the incarnation. Emmanuel, God, in Jesus, coming to each of us.

Let us look forward to an ever deeper experience of the Holy Spirit transforming us and bringing out, within us, a great joy and a desire in our everyday activities to magnify the Lord's presence to people around us in the world in which we live. And how our world needs that magnification of Christ's presence.

So, may we share in the liberating and joy-filled and saving mission of Jesus. May we magnify His presence and give witness to the love of God through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit.