



## *Pastor Hanke's Blog*

*December 8, 2019*

### What's the Deal with Mary?

Bible Reference: Luke 1:26-38

“What’s the deal with (fill in the blank)?” is a common question for us as we look into the traditions of others. This year we had the opportunity to bring my new nieces to Our Lady of the Snows. We get kettle corn, feed animals, look at lights and afterwards we head to dinner. This is a Christmas tradition that has been with Mindy’s family for a long time. My brother-in-law was observing this tradition for the first time and had a few questions, which is not unlike any of our family traditions that are common to us but unique to someone else.

This question gets asked a lot of other denominations and faiths as well. We may have a basic understanding of a denomination or faith, but there are many intricacies we can only learn by asking. I encourage you to ask those questions and learn about what is unfamiliar to you. You can also ask me; I welcome questions (as long as they don’t come in the form of “Why?” like a repetitive two-year-old). This past spring, after working with some Christian Scientists, I had the opportunity to ask them about what they do when they meet. They showed me the order they follow and how they handle the week-to-week activities. It was a good learning experience.

One question that I get asked often is what’s the deal with Mary and why is she a big deal to the Catholics? Advent is the perfect time to tackle this question since this is when we talk about Mary the most. The only way to answer this, however, is to ask more questions about Mary. Who is she? Outside of the obvious, why is she important, and what does it mean? In our Advent preparations we take on this key character in the story of Salvation. We will explore Mary and what we can learn from her as we prepare for Jesus coming.

*Peace,*

*Pastor Will*