



**Blessed Sacrament Parish**  
**Homily by Father Chris Comerford**  
**December 23, 2018 Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Reading I Micah 5:1-4**

**Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19**

**Reading II Hebrews 10:5-10**

**Gospel Luke 1:39-45**

**Homily**

As you look at our stained glass windows up in front and to the right we have the story of the annunciation when the angel Gabriel came to Mary and told her God's amazing plan to bring his son into the world. We know that Mary was brave but shocked in seeing an archangel in front of her and yet she said, "Yes. Let it be done to me according to your word." In the midst of that she also heard that her cousin Elizabeth was going to have a child. And Elizabeth had been trying for years and years beyond the normal childbearing years, but now that was going to be part of God's plan also. And the angel told Mary that Elizabeth was now in her sixth month.

So today we find out what Mary does when she finds out this news. She is not concerned about herself. She starts out to go to the hill country of Judah, not too far from Jerusalem, and goes to Zachariah and Elizabeth's home. Mary arrives and we see this amazing scene. The child leaps in her womb; John the Baptist, knowing from hearing the voice of Mary that the Savior is near. This is incredible the joy between these two unborn children. It is kind of interesting to think about the idea of "leaping in the womb." I have know babies who have kicked but there is a difference between that and leaping in the womb. But it shows that great joy that John the Baptist felt.

It is amazing to hear these plans. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit: "Blessed are you among women. Blessed is the fruit of thy womb" — words that have become very familiar to us as we pray the Rosary inspired by the Holy Spirit. Elizabeth also refers to Mary as "The mother of my Lord." Elizabeth senses through the Holy Spirit what is happening. Elizabeth would not have heard that Mary was pregnant. There was no phones or text messages. She couldn't have figured it out right away. It was only through the incredible sign of God and the Power of the Spirit that she finds out.

When Elizabeth hears Mary's greeting she tells her, "The infant in my womb leaped for joy." That was something incredible that was happening. This really goes back to the old testament where King David was out in the hill country in Judah. They were traveling with the ark of the covenant. And they were preparing to take it up to Jerusalem, so David had the ark in the hill country of Judah and as they were building the procession to go up to Jerusalem it says King David danced in front of the ark, leaping and dancing.

And thus we see this in front of the new ark of the covenant, the ark that held the Savior of the World, John the Baptist dances and leaps in the womb of Elizabeth.