

# IN EXCELSIS DEO

## ADVENT 2024

**Monday, December 16**

**Read: Luke 1:26-33**

God wants me to do what?!

Can you just imagine? You are, or you have, a girl between 12 and 16 years old. This girl was born into a family of faith that worshipped God and had faith in God herself. I could be wrong, but I would imagine that most, not all, of our church family also grew up in a home that worshipped God. I did, and I have faith in God, but I still would have been very bewildered and quite upset if an angel appeared to me and told me I would have a baby even though I was a virgin! Even though it meant I was highly favored by God, I would have still been in quite a tizzy wondering how to tell my parents and how those parents would react. I sometimes wonder if Mary didn't also have some panicky moments – these verses tell us she was greatly troubled at Gabriel's words. And she was troubled BEFORE he told her about the conceiving and having a baby thing!

We know the outcome without reading ahead in the chapter. We know she had an unexpected visit from an angel and was troubled at his words, but she had faith in God and accepted the situation Gabriel described.

I'd also venture to say that none of us has had a task that was as complex as the one Mary was given. But none of us needs to do such a thing quite as complex – God already sent his Son. We do need, however, to accept the tasks that God sends our way to demonstrate our faith and trust in God.

Susan Bujol