

# The first 'tabernacle' in history ...

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## FEAST *of the* VISITATION

May 31

Blessed is she who believed that what the Lord  
has said would be fulfilled. ~ Luke 1:45

**"O noble Virgin, truly you are greater than any other greatness.  
For who is your equal in greatness, O dwelling place of God the Word?  
To whom among all creatures shall I compare you, O Virgin?  
You are greater than them all, O Ark of the Covenant, clothed  
with purity instead of gold! You are the Ark in which is found  
the golden vessel containing the true manna, that is,  
the flesh in which Divinity resides." ~ St Athanasius**



**"Mary also anticipated, in the mystery of the Incarnation,**

**the Church's Eucharistic faith. When, at the Visitation, she bore in her womb the Word made flesh, she became in some way a 'tabernacle' – the first 'tabernacle' in history – in which the Son of God, still invisible to our human gaze, allowed Himself to be adored by Elizabeth radiating His light as it were through the eyes and the voice of Mary.**

**And is not the enraptured gaze of Mary ... that unparalleled model of love which should inspire us every time we receive Eucharistic communion?"**

**Pope St John Paul II, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, 55**

Painting: The Visitation - Karl von Blaas



Tabernacle at St Peter Catholic Church - St Charles, Missouri - USA

**"Is it not this also the joy of the Church, which receives Christ**

**incessantly in the holy Eucharist and takes Him to the world  
with the testimony of active charity, full of faith and hope?**

**Yes, to receive Jesus and to take Him to others is the true joy of the Christian!**

**Let us follow and imitate Mary's profoundly Eucharistic  
soul, and our whole life will become a Magnificat."**

**Pope Benedict XVI**

*31 May 2005*

**"Let Mary's soul be in each of you to proclaim the greatness of the Lord.**

**Let her spirit be in each to rejoice in the Lord.**

**Christ has only one mother in the flesh,  
but we all bring forth Christ in faith." - St Ambrose**

**Blessed Mother Mary and St Elizabeth, pray for us!**