

ENRICHMENT: SACRED ART

Praying with Sacred Art: *Expulsion of Adam and Eve, detail from The Annunciation, by Fra Angelico*

Full-page image available on page 68 or on the parent portal.

When we pray while looking at this painting, we learn about the sadness of sin and the lengths God has gone to heal us from sin. [Begin with the Sign of the Cross.](#)

Notice the flowers and grass in the garden. ***What do they tell you about God's command to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden?***

The flowers and grass tell us that the Garden of Eden was a place of beauty and plenty. The white flowers remind us of the innocence in the garden. God told Adam and Eve not to eat of the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. They could eat everything else in the garden. The only fruit they could not eat was the fruit that God told them not to eat. Adam and Eve were in a loving friendship with God. To love God is to be obedient to God.



Look at the palm tree behind Adam and Eve. ***What event do you think the palm tree points to?***

The palm tree is a symbol of salvation and life through the Passion of Jesus. In this scene, the palm tree points to the future suffering of Jesus. Adam disobeyed; Jesus obeys. Jesus will become the New Adam.

Notice the gestures of Adam and Eve. ***What do they tell you about how Adam and Eve lost their friendship with God, their Creator?***

Adam covers his face in shame. Eve folds her hands in guilt. They have disobeyed God. The evil serpent tempted Adam and Eve to disobey God. The serpent told them to eat the fruit that God had forbidden. They were tricked into thinking they would become like God. Adam and Eve had an important decision to make: to love God by obeying God's command or to disobey God in pride. Adam and Eve listened to the tricky serpent. They chose not to obey God. They ate the fruit that God told them not to eat.

Look at the angel behind Adam and Eve. ***What is Original Sin? Why is this an important teaching of faith?***

The angel tells Adam and Eve to leave the Garden of Eden. After they disobeyed God, they could not live in the Garden of Eden. They lost their friendship with God. Now Adam and Eve are afraid and guilty. In shame, they leave the Garden of Eden.

Adam and Eve's disobedience is the first human sin. The disobedience of Adam and Eve is called Original Sin.

Look carefully at the painting. Adam and Eve are leaving all that is good, true, and beautiful behind them. ***What can we do to turn our hearts back to Jesus?***

Conclude by praying to Jesus. Say "Jesus, I love You. I give You my heart. Make me holy like You. Amen."