

# Weekly Fetal Development of Gabriela 2016

*Tradition teaches us Christ was conceived on the Feast of the Annunciation, March 25.  
Follow the development of Gabriela in the womb beginning on the Feast of the Annunciation  
through Christmas Day, December 25.*

## April 3 (Week 1)

*Before I formed you in the womb I knew you. (Jeremiah 1: 5)*

The Miracle of Life! At conception the gender of the child is determined by the father's sperm. We are going to name this tiny new human being Gabriela. Gabriela has not yet implanted into the wall of the uterus so no one but God knows of her existence. God has known us and loved us from all eternity.

## April 10 (Week 2)

*For nothing will be impossible for God. (Luke 1:37)*

Gabriela has implanted in the wall of her mother's uterus which typically takes place about 6 days after conception. Immediately, physical changes start taking place with her mother. The placenta starts to form, which will protect Gabriella and provide nutrients to her. Mom's uterus will increase its capacity by 1000 times during pregnancy.

## April 17 (Week 3)

*I praise you, so wonderfully you made me . . . my bones were not hidden from you,  
when I was being made in secret, fashioned as in the depths of the earth. (Psalm 139)*

Multiplying and developing rapidly, Gabriela's cells are separating into those that will form her body and organ systems. Before the second week is over, her cells have separated into those that will give rise to her brain, nervous system, skin, digestive system, muscles, bones, and circulatory system.

## April 24 (Week 4)

*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation...  
all things were created through him and for him. (Colossians 1:15-16)*

Gabriela's heart started beating 18 days after conception. She may have a different blood type than her mother's. Already Gabriela has the foundation for thought, senses, feeling and more. The amniotic sac is now formed and the fluid will cushion Gabriela throughout the pregnancy. Gabriela has a yolk sac which supplies blood and nutrients until the placenta has developed and is ready to take over.

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## May 1 (Week 5)

*You did form my inward parts, you did knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for you are fearful and wonderful. Wonderful are your works! You know me right well. (Psalm 139[138]: 13-14)*

Gabriela's heart is now pumping blood. All four chambers of the heart are working. Her lungs are starting to appear along with her brain. Arm and leg buds appear. Soon she will be doing somersaults in the spacious world of the womb. Mom is probably tired and may experience morning sickness as her body adjusts to the baby.

## May 8 (Week 6)

*Even the hairs of your head have all been counted. Do not be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows. (Luke 12:7)*

Gabriela is now 10,000 times larger than the original fertilized egg and she is developing rapidly. Her heart is pumping and increasing quantities of blood through her body. The placenta forms a unique barrier between Mom and Gabriella. The baby likely has a different blood type, different DNA, and is not part of the mother's body.

## May 15 (Week 7)

*Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1)*

Gabriela's brain waves can now be detected. Over the next few months her brain will develop over 100 billion neurons. Her brain begins to control movement of muscles and organs. Her nose is also developing. Her mother probably has confirmed that she is pregnant. Happy Mother's Day!

## May 22 (Week 8)

*How sweet to my tongue is your promise, sweeter than honey to my mouth! (Psalm 119:103)*

Baby Gabriela begins to move. At 8 weeks her arms are bending and flexing. Fingers are developing and Gabriela is now swimming. She may be practicing for the 2032 Olympics!

## May 29 (Week 9)

*Every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights. (James 1:17a)*

Gabriela is 9 weeks old and just under an inch long, and she now changes from embryo to fetus. Everything is present that will be found in a fully developed adult. If Gabriela continued to grow all nine months as fast as she has the second month, she would be born as large as two overfed elephants! Thankfully, development slows down.

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## June 5 (Week 10)

*Behold, children are a gift of the Lord; the fruit of the womb is a reward. (Psalm 127:3)*

Gabriela has fingerprints at 10 weeks. The fingers can curve around an object placed in the palm. She can now feel pain. She is having a wonderful time shifting, dancing and playing in the womb. Her mother is coping with many changes as well; nurturing a baby is hard work.

## June 12 (Week 11)

*For nothing will be impossible for God. (Luke 1:37)*

The most critical part of Gabriela's development is now complete. Gabriela enters into a period of rapid growth. Her eyelids fuse close and will not open again until about 26 weeks. Her eye color is already determined, and Gabriela can squint and even swallow. She is over an inch long and is moving around in her home, the womb. Mom's uterus will increase its capacity by 1000 times during pregnancy.

## June 19 (Week 12)

*You did form my inward parts; you did knit me together in my mother's womb. (Psalm 139)*

Gabriela is almost 2 inches long. Fingers and toes are separated. Gabriela could easily stand on her daddy's little fingernail. Her feet are the size of the Precious Feet pins that have become a symbol of the pro-life movement. Fingernails and hair are starting to grow.

## June 26 (Week 13)

*Just as you do not know how the breath comes to the bones in the mother's womb, so you do not know the work of God, who makes everything. (Ecclesiastes 11:5)*

Gabriela now sleeps and exercises her muscles energetically. She is able to turn her head, curl her toes, make a fist, and open and close her mouth while breathing the amniotic fluid to help develop the respiratory system. While Gabriela is active, she is very small, weighing about one ounce.

## July 3 (Week 14)

*And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon him. (Luke 2:40)*

Baby Gabriela is almost three inches long and growing very fast. She will continue to grow until about 23 years of age. Her vocal cords are beginning to form. Mom is feeling better and has more energy.

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## July 10 (Week 15)

*God [had] from my mother's womb set me apart and called me through his grace... (Galatians 1:15)*

Gabriela's taste buds are working! She drinks more amniotic fluid and it tastes sweet. Her skin is transparent and is very sensitive to pain except for her back and the top of her head. She may be small, but she's growing fast! This week, Mom will enjoy fireworks and celebrate the birth of our nation, but Gabriela won't hear anything – yet.

## July 17 (Week 16)

*They will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God. (Isaiah 35:2)*

Soon Gabriela will be able to grasp with her hands. What will she grasp? Her other hand! She has her own unique fingerprints now. Her fingernails and toenails are growing. She also has an adult's taste buds. Her eyebrows and hair on her head are sprouting, but it will probably change color and texture after birth. She is kicking, twisting, and flailing really hard. But Mom can't feel Gabriela moving in the womb – yet.

## July 24 (Week 17)

*Before I formed you in the womb I knew you. (Jeremiah 1: 5)*

I'm getting a little baby fat under my skin. My heart is pumping as much as 6 gallons a day at a rate about double my mom's. I can swim and kick and do somersaults! I'm the same size as my placenta now. I'm not a lightweight anymore – I weigh almost six ounces and I am about three inches long. Mom might be able to hear tiny thumps of my heartbeat with an external monitor now.

## July 31 (Week 18)

*Just as you do not know how the breath comes to the bones in the mother's womb, so you do not know the work of God, who makes everything. (Ecclesiastes 11:5)*

When I'm sleeping, I have REM (rapid eye movements), which means I'm dreaming, but I can't remember my dreams. My vocal cords have formed but I don't make a sound – must be because there's no air in here. Isn't it amazing that I'm able to breathe underwater, inhaling and exhaling small amounts of amniotic fluid? I'm working on developing great lungs. Mom may start to feel me as a flutter in her lower abdomen.

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## August 7 (Week 19)

I can hear my mother's heartbeat and some other funny noises she makes. I'm beginning to know her voice. My umbilical cord (that's where I get my food from) is really awesome – engineering marvel! My umbilical cord transports 300 quarts of fluid per day and completes a round-trip of fluids every 30 seconds. Wow! I like sucking my thumb. Mom is probably starting to show now.

## August 14 (Week 20)

If you were to shine a very bright light on Mom's abdomen, I may slowly move my hand in front of my eyes. If you make a very loud noise, I may cover my ears with my hands. But I can also hear my mom's voice, and when she sings a lullaby, it soothes me and helps me sleep. My private parts are clearly visible now, and Mom may be able to feel my kicks now. Don't forget those prenatal vitamins!

## August 21 (Week 21)

*For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled. (Luke 1:44- 45)*

Hair is starting to grow on my head; I wonder what color is it? I'm 20 weeks old now, and in another 20 weeks I will be born! My legs are getting stronger, so soon Mom will really feel my kicks. I like sleeping in the same position now. I'm over 6 inches tall when I stretch out, and I weigh over 10 ounces. Mom can distinguish two heartbeats if she lies quietly and flat on her back, locates her own heartbeat by finding her pulse, then lays her hand on her belly. My heart pumps about six gallons of blood every day.

## August 28 (week 22)

*...and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:11)*

My tongue is fully formed now. I'm practicing giving people a raspberry! I can hear noises from the outside. Some loud ones scare me. I know Mom's voice and like the music she listens to. I now have fingernails and fingerprints. I'm not as little as I used to be just a few weeks ago...I'm now about 10 inches long if I could stand up straight! Mom is waiting to find out if I'm a boy or girl.

## September 4 (week 23)

*Therefore, take these words of mine into your heart and soul....Teach them to your children, speaking of them at home and abroad, whether you are busy or at rest. (Deuteronomy 11:18-19)*

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I can hear Mom's conversations more clearly now. I can hear her read, sing, and talk. I like to kick back, suck my thumb, and listen to her read to me. My eyelids and eyebrows are fully formed. My fingernails have grown to the ends of my fingers. My brain is growing really fast, so I'm going to be very smart. I weigh nearly a pound now. Dad, did you know that low-frequency sounds, like a male voice, penetrate the abdomen and uterine wall better than the higher frequencies of the female voice?

### September 11 (week 24)

*"Even the hairs of your head have all been counted. Do not be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows." (Luke 12:7)*

I have fine hair all over my body that is there to protect my skin. I will lose all this body hair before birth. I'm a little thin at this point, but am putting on more baby fat. My eyes are formed, but the iris does not yet have color – I'd like brown eyes! I now weigh over a pound and am about a foot long. Fifty years ago, a baby born at this age could not have survived. But today, with modern technology, babies born at this age have a fighting chance (about 50%) of survival.

### September 18 (week 25)

*"Yet you drew me forth from the womb, made me safe at my mother's breast." - Psalm 22:10*

I'm really beginning to bulk up - I gained 6 ounces this week! I think most of it was muscle, but also some bone mass and some organ development. My taste buds allow me to distinguish bitter, sweet, and sour. My lungs have developed so well, I'm now officially considered viable and could live outside the womb. Each of my parents contributed 15,000 genes that determined not only what I look like, but also how I interpret tastes, my athletic abilities, allergies, health, and much more.