

11 The Savior Is Born


“Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel” (which means, God with us).

Matthew 1:23

It was almost time for Mary’s baby to be born when she and Joseph heard some news. The ruler of their land wanted to count all the people who lived there. Everyone had to travel to certain cities to be counted. Mary and Joseph had to go to a city called **Bethlehem**.

When they got to Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph could not find a place to stay. So they had to stay in a stable with the animals. There, the baby Jesus was born. His bed was a **manger** filled with straw. This was part of God’s plan for **Christmas**. He did not want to come to earth as a rich king. He wanted to share the life of the poor.

That is why the first people to learn about the newborn Savior were poor shepherds. An angel came to them as they watched their sheep.



“I bring you good news,” said the angel. “A Savior has been born to you. You will find Him lying in a manger.” The shepherds hurried to find the newborn Savior. They found the baby Jesus with Mary and Joseph just as the angel had told them.

Far away, three wise men saw a big, bright star moving across the sky. They followed the star to see where it would take them. It led them to Jesus. The wise men gave precious gifts to the Savior, gifts for a king: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They knew that Jesus was a great king, even though He looked like a poor little baby.

A wicked man named Herod ruled over the land where Jesus was born. He met the wise men and heard them talk about a baby who was a king. Herod wanted no one to be king but himself. He was so angry he tried to have Jesus killed. But God warned Joseph to take Jesus and Mary far away so that Herod could not kill Jesus. They went to the land of Egypt, and there they lived until Herod was dead.

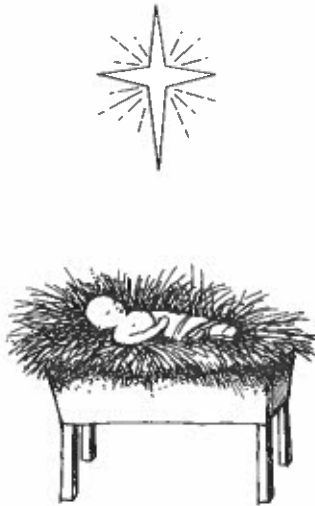
“The angel said to them, ‘Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy . . . for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.’ ”

Luke 2:10–11

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask You to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Your tender care,
And fit us for Heaven to live with You there.

Traditional Carol



The Holy Family

“But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, ‘Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.’”

Matthew 2:19–20

After Herod died, it was safe for Jesus, Mary, and Joseph to leave Egypt. They went to live in a small town called **Nazareth**.

Joseph was the head of the **Holy Family**. He loved God very much and he loved Jesus and Mary, too. Joseph worked hard all day so he could take care of Jesus and Mary. But he was always cheerful and kind. Joseph was a carpenter. He cut boards from trees and made them into tables and chairs. Jesus loved to watch Joseph at work. He was even happier when Joseph began teaching Him to be a carpenter.

Mary had a big job too. She took the money that Joseph made and went to buy the food the family needed. She baked bread, fixed meals, and made clothes for the three of them. Mary made the house a clean and happy place for Jesus and Joseph. Jesus also

spent time helping His Mother around the house. He thought of ways to help her and to make her job easier.

Jesus loved to tell His parents all about the things He did and the games He played. He told them about His friends and liked to bring them home. Mary and Joseph were glad that Jesus shared these things with them.

Jesus knew that His Heavenly Father wanted Him to do what Mary and Joseph told Him. So He always obeyed them, even when He wanted to do something else.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph prayed together each day. They praised and thanked their Heavenly Father for His goodness.

Did you know that you and your family can belong to the Holy Family, too? Jesus gave Mary to us to be our Mother. We can pray to Saint Joseph as our friend and protector. And Jesus is our brother. Through Baptism He made us His brothers and sisters.

Words to Know:

Nazareth Joseph Holy Family