

Biblical Reflections on the Nativity

Redemptorist Pastoral Publication



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A Redemptorist Ministry

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We hear the nativity story so often it can become background noise for the Christmas season. Like *A Christmas Carol* or *It's a Wonderful Life*, the nativity story becomes just another holiday themed story for the season.

While many holiday stories have a strong moral center, the nativity story is unlike them in one major way. *It isn't fiction.* That teen mother chosen by God? She really said yes. That God made child who came to save us? He really existed. While scholars might debate the accuracy of the details in the nativity narrative, as Christians we know this story holds the core truth of our religion. God became like us in all things but sin. He died for us, to save us.

This Advent, go beyond the nativity story as story. Spend time reflecting

on the truths it holds, and let God speak to you through this sacred Scripture.

The reflections provided in this pamphlet are excerpted from the Liguori Catholic Bible Study books *The Gospel of Luke: Salvation for All Humanity* and *The Gospel of Matthew: Proclaiming the Ministry of Christ* by William A. Anderson, DMin, PhD. If you find these reflections enlightening, search for “Liguori Catholic Bible Study” on **Liguori.org** to find these books and others in the series.

The Nativity Story According to Luke

Read the first week of Advent:

The Annunciation 1:26–38

Luke centers his infancy narrative on Mary. The angel Gabriel, who previously visited Zechariah, now comes to Mary, who is betrothed to Joseph of the house of David. Because the true line of inheritance comes through the father of the child, it is significant that Luke names Joseph as belonging to the lineage of David. Jesus, as the Messiah, must claim the line of David as his family line to fulfill the Old Testament expectation.

Although Luke describes the birth of Jesus as a virgin birth, Jesus, according to Jewish Law, can claim

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