

ANNUNCIATION, NATIVITY, & PRESENTATION OF CHRIST

THE LIFE OF CHRIST WITH SAINT LUKE



ANNUNCIATION TO MARY

Major feast day: March 25th

Luke 1:26-38

The Archangel Gabriel visits Mary and announces to her that she will have a Son and she is to name Him, Jesus. (*Yeshua*, meaning “Yahweh saves” or “Savior”) Mary asks how this will come to pass because she has never known a man. Mary and Joseph are betrothed (a very binding engagement), but they are not yet formally married and living together. Gabriel tells Mary, “The Holy

1

GOAL

Learn about the feasts of the Annunciation, Nativity, and Presentation of Christ

2

AT CHURCH

To know the Bible is to know our services - prayers and hymns from Luke 1 & 2

3

AT HOME

We bring our babies to be blessed at 40 days old, just like the Theotokos & Christ



Annunciation:
an announcement
~
by Archangel
Gabriel



Nativity:
birth
~
of Christ



Presentation:
an offering
~
of Christ
in the Temple

Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God." Mary willingly consented, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." Then Gabriel departed from her.

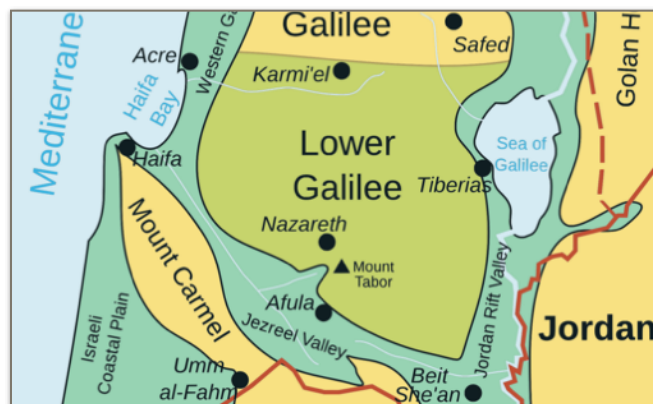
ACTIVITIES

Icon of the Annunciation

Show the icon to the students as you are reading Luke's gospel. Afterwards, ask them to summarize the story to you.

When we are asked to retell a story or lesson, our brain has to recall and organize the information we've received in order to retell it. Our brain then realizes this may be important information and is more likely to store it in long term memory, especially if we ask the students to recall the story again in the near future. (e.g. with parents at home or next week as part of a review)

Additionally, point out that we have two icons of the Annunciation in our church - a small one on the Royal Doors and a much larger one on the arch above the altar.



Timeline - What event occurred?

Use a post-it note or a piece of paper cut lengthwise to write a short summary about the Annunciation to Mary.

Options:

- One student writes the summary and places it on the timeline after the summary about St. John's parents
- A group of students collaborate to write the summary and place it on the timeline
- The students dictate a summary of the annunciation to the teacher and the teacher writes it down and places it on the timeline

EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- *The Gospel of Luke: Good News for the Poor* by Fr. Lawrence Farley, pages 27-77
- *The Explanation of the Holy Gospel According to Luke* by Blessed Theophylact, pages 7-39
- [Search the Scriptures Live Podcast: the Annunciation](#) by Dr. Jeannie Constantinou



Map - Where did the event occur?

Using the map of Israel in the classroom, locate Nazareth. Joseph and Mary traveled south through Judea to get to Bethlehem. Then find Bethlehem on the map.

NATIVITY OF CHRIST

Major feast day: December 25th

Luke 2:1-20

Matthew 1:18-25

Joseph and Mary made their way from Nazareth in the north to Bethlehem, which is about 90 miles south. This journey would have taken them several days, especially with Mary being very pregnant.



Bethlehem is swarming with people who have traveled to register for the census and there isn't anywhere for them to stay. The only option remaining is a cave where someone kept their animals. Israel is largely a desert area and trees are not plentiful. Therefore, they use the rocky terrain surrounding them for many uses - one of them being a shelter for their animals. This is the humble birthplace of Christ.

ACTIVITIES

Icon of the Nativity of Christ

Show the icon to the students as you are reading Luke and Matthew's gospel. Afterwards, ask them to tell you about the icon. They will summarize the birth of Christ as they tell you about the icon.

Timeline - What event occurred?

Use a post-it note or a piece of paper cut lengthwise to write a short summary about the Nativity of Christ.

Map - Where did the event occur?

Bethlehem is located a relatively short distance from Jerusalem.

PRESENTATION OF CHRIST INTO THE TEMPLE

Major feast day: February 2nd

Luke 2:22-38

The Theotokos and Joseph bring Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem when He is 40 days old.

We also bring our babies to church when they are 40 days old for a special blessing.



ACTIVITIES

Icon of the Presentation of Christ

Show the icon to the children as you are reading Luke gospel. Afterwards, ask them to tell you about the icon. They will summarize the Presentation of Christ as they tell you about the icon.

Timeline - What event occurred?

Use a post-it note or a piece of paper cut lengthwise to write a short summary about the Presentation of Christ into the Temple.

ANNUNCIATION, NATIVITY, & PRESENTATION OF CHRIST

AT HOME

FOR PARENTS

Lord, now You are letting
Your servant depart in
peace, according to Your
word; for my eyes have seen Your
salvation which You have prepared
before the face of all peoples, a light
to bring revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of Your people Israel.

Prayer of St. Symeon

Luke 2:29-32

Our services are richly steeped with prayers and hymns from Holy Scripture - to know the Bible is to know our services.

Luke's gospel provides us with several prayers and hymns, one of them is the Prayer of St. Symeon. These words are spoken by Symeon with such sincere joy and longing as he holds Christ in his arms in the temple. We fittingly hear this prayer at the end of some of our services. Listen carefully the next time you're at church for this prayer and think about why we would be at peace as we depart.

Additional prayers we receive from Luke's gospel:

- The Magnificat (Song of the Theotokos) - Luke 1:46-55
- Prayer of Zacharias - Luke 1:68-79
- Prayer of the Repentant Thief - Luke 23:42

HOME ACTIVITY #4

Virtual Field Trip to:

- Nazareth - [Church of Archangel Gabriel & Basilica of the Annunciation](#) (YouTube Video)
- Bethlehem - [the Church of the Nativity](#) (YouTube Video)





