

# ANNUNCIATION, NATIVITY, & PRESENTATION OF CHRIST

THE LIFE OF CHRIST WITH SAINT LUKE



## ANNUNCIATION TO MARY

Major feast day: March 25th

Luke 1:26-38

Mary lives in the city of Nazareth near the Sea of Galilee and she is betrothed (*similar to saying engaged to someone today*) to Joseph. The Archangel Gabriel visits her and tells her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" She is troubled by a sudden appearance of an angel by her side. The angel soothes her by telling her not to be afraid. She is to have a Son

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### 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

and name Him Jesus. Looking at the angel, Mary asked how this could be because she has not been with a man. The angel replied, “The Holy 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.”

In turn, Mary responded to the angel, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.” And then Archangel Gabriel left.



## 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 length-wise 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

## 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



- 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

### 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 traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem because of the required registration for the census. Everyone had to go to where their families were from. For Joseph, this meant going back to Bethlehem because he is a descendent of King David who was born there.

Bethlehem is swarming with people who have traveled far and wide to register for the census. There is absolutely no where 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.

When our moms gave birth to us, many of them stayed home with us for 40 days (or 6 weeks) and then brought us to the church for our 40 day blessing, just like the Theotokos and Christ.

### 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.

### Map - Where did the event occur?

Find Jerusalem on the map

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## AT HOME

### FOR PARENTS

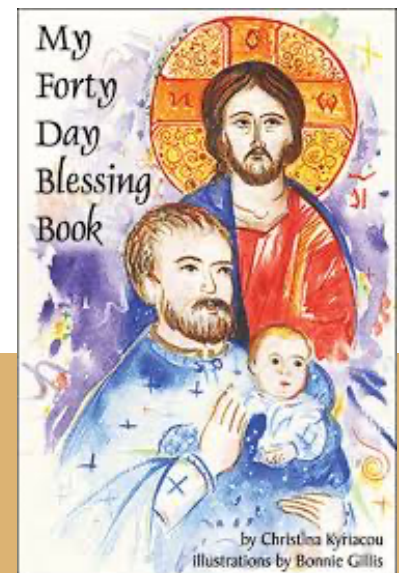
**L**ord, now You are letting  
Your servant depart in  
peace, according to Your  
word; for my eyes have seen Your  
salvation which You have prepared  
before the face of all peoples, a light  
to bring revelation to the Gentiles,  
and the glory of Your people Israel.

### 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.



### HOME ACTIVITY #4

#### Learn more about 40 Day Blessings:

- [My Forty Day Blessing Book](#) by Christina Kyriacou

#### Virtual Field Trip to:

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





