

# JESUS' CHILDHOOD

THE LIFE OF CHRIST WITH SAINT LUKE



## FLIGHT INTO EGYPT, THE SLAYING OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, & RETURN HOME

Read Matthew 2:13-23 & Luke 2:39-40

In our last lesson, we were learning about the birth of Christ. This week, we are continuing to learn about Jesus' childhood. We don't know a whole lot about Jesus when he was younger. This is because the evangelists focused on telling us about Christ's ministry, teachings, miracles, death, and resurrection because this was the most important part: Jesus came for the salvation of all!

1

### GOAL

Learn about Jesus' childhood & the roles of the local rulers during His lifetime

2

### AT CHURCH

Nicene Creed:  
"He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate..."

3

### AT HOME

Learn about the First Ecumenical Council & practice the Nicene Creed with our parents



**Herod the Great:**  
The local ruler when Jesus is born; He orders the death of the Holy Innocents



**Herod Antipas:**  
Son of Herod the Great; Orders St. John the Baptist's death; local ruler of Galilee & Perea



**Herod Archelaus:**  
Son of Herod the Great; Removed by the Roman Emperor & later replaced with Pontius Pilate; local

Today, we are learning about the last little glimpse we get of Jesus' childhood from the gospels.

In Matthew, we learn about how the magi had visited Herod the Great as they looked for the "King of the Jews." Herod informs them that he wants to find this king too and instructs them to return to him after they find the child. They, however, are warned in a dream not to return to Herod - and when Herod finds out, he's angry! He's so upset that he orders all of the male babies two years old and younger to be killed. He does not want to risk Jesus growing up and taking his spot!

Before Herod can carry out his plan, Joseph is warned in a dream to leave immediately for Egypt. He is instructed to stay there until Herod dies, which is not too long.

After Herod the Great's death, the land he ruled is split up amongst his children. Joseph is given instructions in a dream again that it's safe to leave Egypt and return to Israel. He learns that Herod's son, Archelaus is ruling in the region of Judea and it's not safe to stay there because he's just as ruthless as his father. So, they keep traveling and stay in the region of Galilee in the city of Nazareth instead. Herod the Great's son, Herod Antipas, is ruling in this area. We will hear more about him as we continue reading the Gospel of Luke.



## JESUS TEACHES IN THE TEMPLE AT AGE 12

Read Luke 2:41-52

Jesus' family had traveled to Jerusalem from Nazareth for the Passover. This was a yearly feast celebrating their exodus out of Egypt when Moses had liberated the Hebrews and led them out of slavery.

Now remember, they don't have cars, trains, or planes during this time. The journey would have taken about 3 - 4 days to walk from Nazareth to Jerusalem. Family and friends would travel together in one big group. There could easily be

### EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

*The Crucifixion of the King of Glory* by Eugenia Constantinou, Chapters 17 & 18

*The Gospel of Matthew: Torah for the Church* by Fr. Lawrence Farley, pages 36-42

*The Gospel of Luke: Good News for the Poor* by Fr. Lawrence Farley, pages 71-77

*The Explanation of the Holy Gospel According to Luke* by Blessed Theophylact, pages 37-39

[Search and Scriptures Podcast: The Massacre of the Innocents & Flight to Egypt](#) with Dr. Jeannie Constantinou



dozens of people camping together each night on the way there and back.

After Passover, everyone packed up and got ready for their journey back home. Oftentimes, the women and children would start walking at a slower pace before the men and the men would catch up with them later. Mary and Joseph had both assumed Jesus was with the other person as they walked back to Nazareth. The group had walked the entire day and as they camped for the night, both of them began looking all over for Jesus after they realized He wasn't with the other person, but they couldn't find Him. They now had to wait until morning to go looking for Him, walk an entire day back to Jerusalem, and then had to wait until the following morning before they could go looking for Him in the bustling, big city. Mary and Joseph finally found Jesus in the Temple! He was listening to the teachers and teaching them as well. Everyone was astounded with Jesus' wisdom and knowledge!

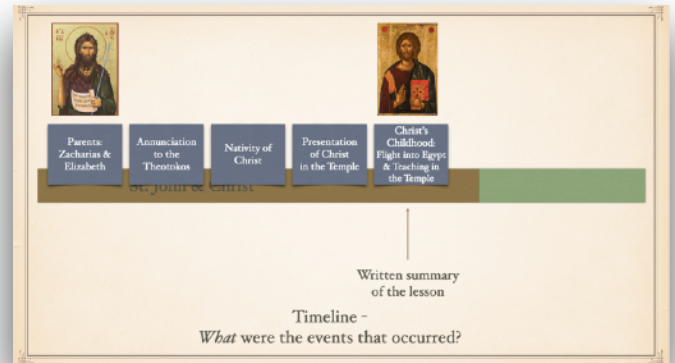
You can imagine how worried Mary would be as she frantically searched for her Son for days. When she found Him, she asked, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously."

Jesus responds to His mom, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"

What did Jesus mean by this? Fr. Lawrence Farley explains, "The young Jesus does not answer disrespectfully, but He asks in return how it could be that they would not know where they could find Him. Where else could He be, but in the place where the Law of His Father was being taught? Did they not know that it was necessary for Him, as the designated Messiah, to be in the things of His Father?" (Page 75, *The Gospel of Luke: Good News for the Poor*)

## ACTIVITIES

### TIMELINE



**Write a summary or bullet points on a post-it note about today's lesson.** Place the post-it note on your timeline. These summaries can be used for periodic review, especially at the end of the year, as we go over *what events* did we study about Christ's life.

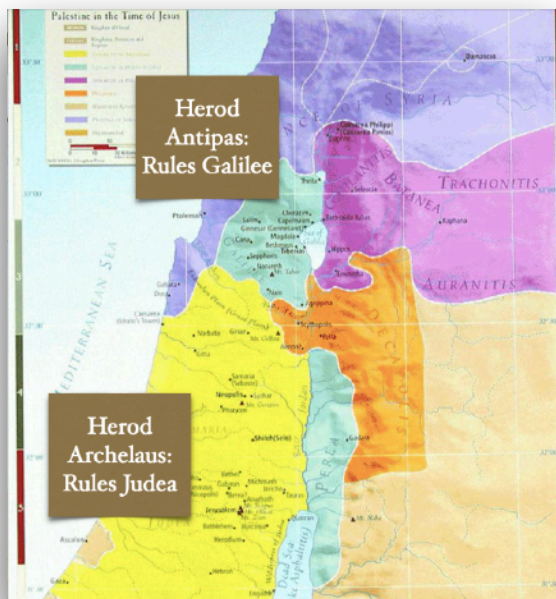
### MAPS

**Let's take a look at our world map:** Where is Israel located? Where is Egypt located?

**Now, let's take a look at our map of Israel:** Where are the regions of Judea and Galilee? At the time of Jesus' birth, who was ruling? (Herod the Great) After Herod the Great's death, Joseph was warned in a dream not to stay in Judea because it was still too dangerous. Who was ruling Judea now? (Herod's son: Archelaus) They continued traveling and settled in the region of Galilee in the city of Nazareth. Who was ruling Galilee now? (Herod's son: Herod Antipas)

Who are the rulers in the area when Joseph, Mary, and Jesus returned from Egypt? **Mark the map of Israel with a post-it note** as we go over *where these events occurred*:

- Ruler of Idumea, Judea, and Samaria: Herod Archelaus (Later it will be Pontius Pilate)
- Ruler of Galilee and Perea: Herod Antipas



SING: O HOLY APOSTLES

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## AT HOME

### FOR PARENTS

**I**t is said that a newly-made vessel will preserve for a long time, perhaps permanently, the odor of whatever was poured into it at that time. This can also be said about the atmosphere surrounding children. It penetrates in a grace-giving and saving way into the forms of life just being established in the child and places its seal upon him. Here also is a protection that cannot be penetrated by the influence of evil spirits.

#### St. Theophan the Recluse

Raising Them Right: A Saint's Advice on Raising Children



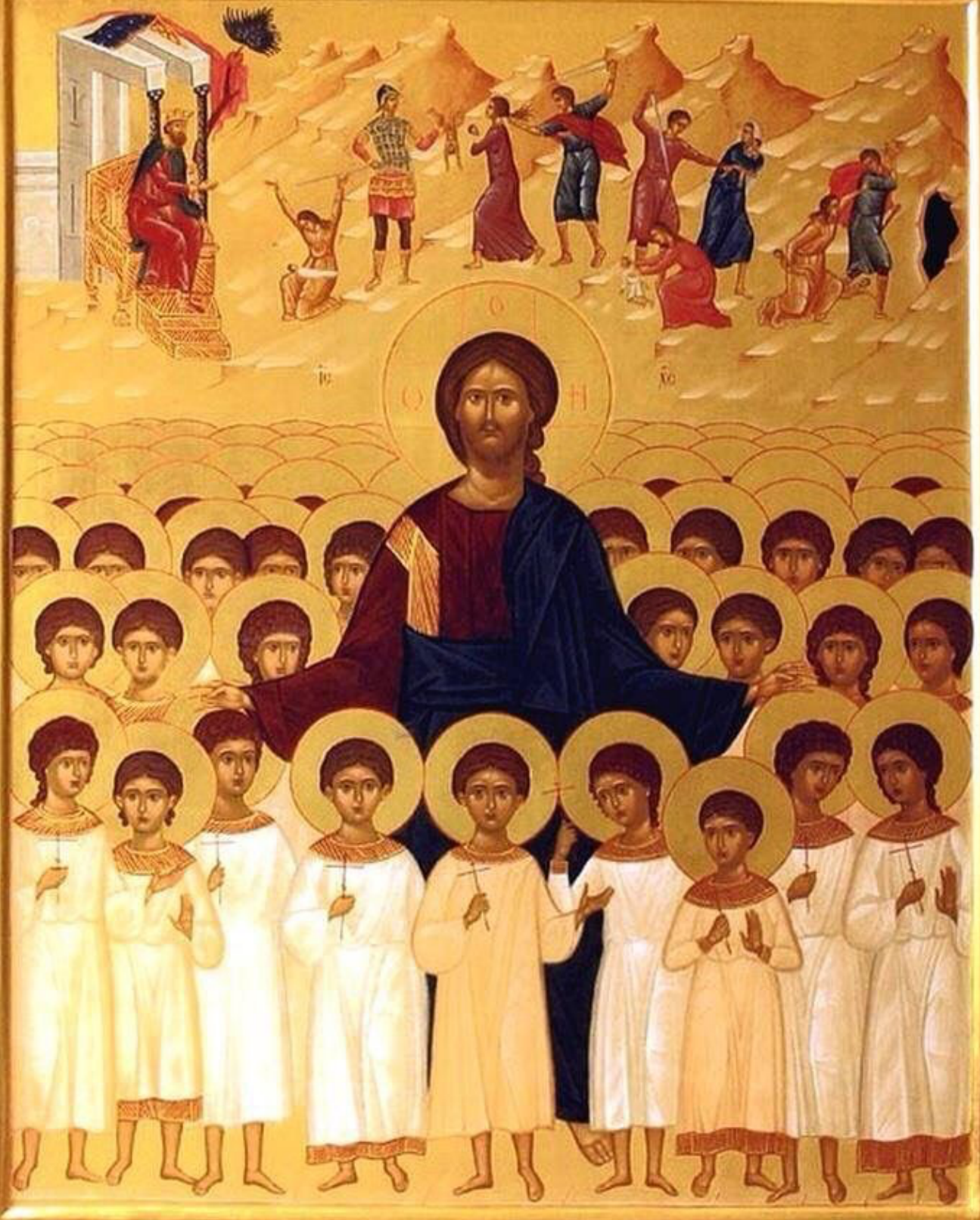
### HOME ACTIVITY #6

#### Watch and discuss with your child(ren):

- YouTube: [Saint Spyridon the Wonderworker](#) - He attended and spoke at the First Ecumenical Council of Nicea.
- YouTube: [Icons Explained - First Ecumenical Council](#)



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