

THE BIRTHS OF MARY AND OF JESUS

Presented by
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St. Jude Bible Study Class
December 10, 2024
Immaculate Conception Bible Study Class
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SOURCES WE WILL REFERENCE:

(BLACK = BIBLE; RED = APOCRYPHA; BLUE = OTHER)

Gospel of Matthew

Gospel of Luke

Protoevangelium (Infancy Gospel) of James

Catechism of the Catholic Church

OTHER SOURCES OF INTEREST:

Infancy Gospel of Thomas

Gospel of Pseudo-Matthew

History of Joseph the Carpenter

EVENTS WE WILL COVER:

(BLACK = BIBLE; RED = APOCRYPHA; GREEN = IN BIBLE AND APOCRYPHA)

- Joachim and Ann: Mary's Parents
- Mary's Birth
- Mary's presentation in the Temple at Age 3
- Mary's espousal to Joseph at age 12
 - The symbolism of Joseph's rod
- Did Joseph have children by a previous marriage?
- The Annunciation
- Joseph's decision not to put Mary away
- The test of bitter waters
- Mary's visit to Elizabeth
- The Birth of Jesus
 - In a manger?
 - In a cave?
- A test of Mary's virginity
- Visit of the shepherds
- The Circumcision (Solemnity of Mary)
- Visit of the Magi
- Jesus's Presentation in the Temple
- Slaughter of the Innocents
- Flight into Egypt

SOME IMPORTANT FEASTS IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH:

JANUARY 1: Solemnity of Mary (was Circumcision)

JANUARY 23: Espousal of Mary and Joseph

FEBRUARY 2: Presentation of Jesus at the Temple

MARCH 19: Solemnity of St. Joseph

MARCH 25: The Annunciation

JULY 26: Feast of Sts. Joachim and Ann

SEPTEMBER 8: Birthday of Mary

NOVEMBER 21: Presentation of Mary at the Temple

DECEMBER 25: Birth of Jesus

DECEMBER 28: Slaughter of the Innocents

FEAST DAY OF STS. JOACHIM AND ANN: JULY 26

Protoevangelium (POJ) I:3

“Joachim...remembered the patriarch Abraham, how in the last days God gave him a son.”

IV:1

“Anna, Anna, the Lord hath harkened to thy prayer, and thou shalt conceive and bear, and thy seed shall be spoken of in the whole world.”

... “If I bring forth either male or female , I will bring it for a gift unto the Lord my God.”



POJ 5:2

“In the ninth* month
Anna brought forth.
And she said unto the
midwife: what have I
brought forth? And she
said: a female. And
Anna said: My soul is
magnified this day.”



THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

September 8th

*NOTE: Some translations have this as the seventh month.

Mary is blessed by the priests, at age 1

POJ 6:2

“O God of our fathers, bless this child and give her a name renowned for ever among all generations.”



The Purification of Mary at age 3 November 21

POJ 7:1-2

“And the child became three years old.....And he made her sit upon the third step of the altar. And the Lord put grace upon her, and she danced with her feet and all the house of Israel loved her.”



The Espousal of Mary and Joseph January 23

POJ 8:2-9:2

“...and lo, a dove
came forth of
the rod and flew
upon the head
of Joseph.”



Some artwork from Mother of God Catholic Church, Covington, Kentucky



Birth of Mary



Mary Presented at Temple



Joseph and Flowering Staff

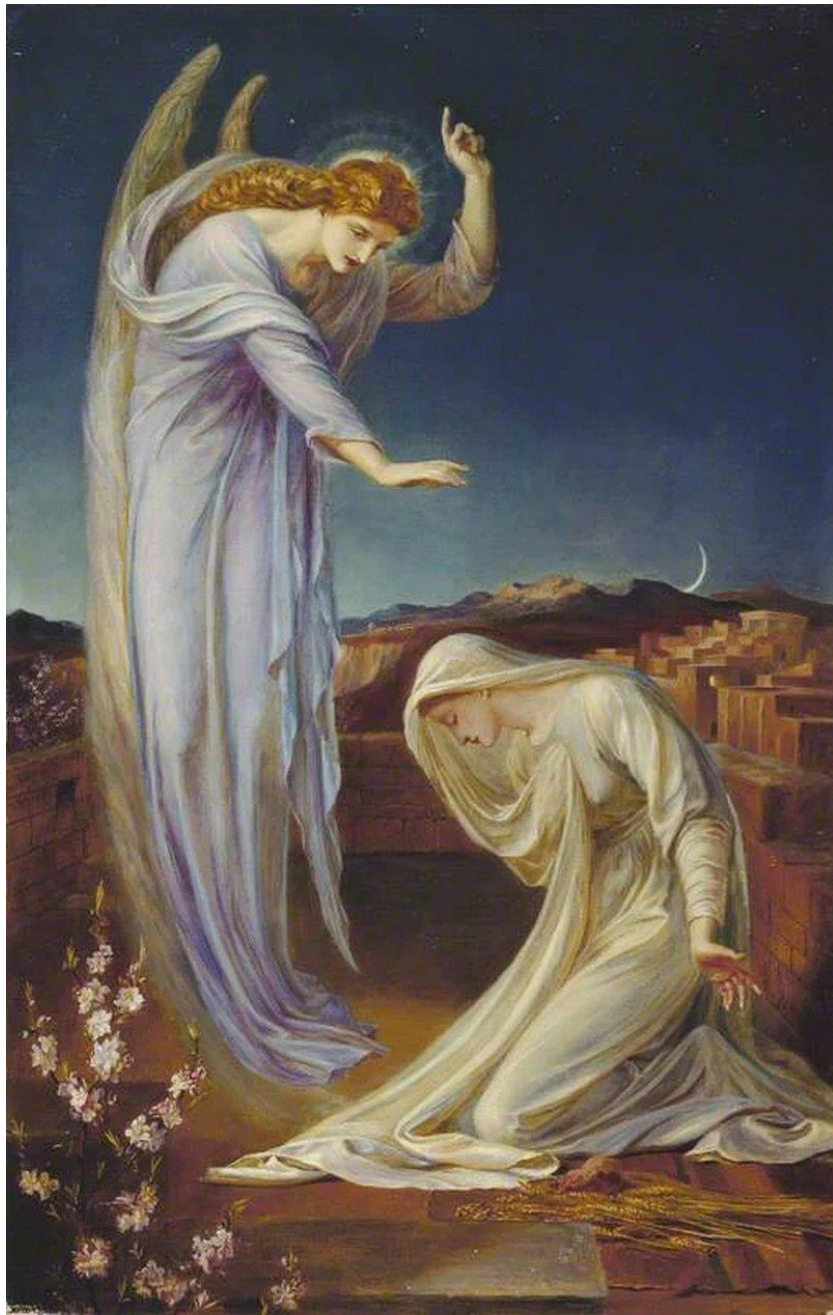
Did Joseph have children from a previous marriage?

POJ 9:1-2

“Unto thee it has fallen to take the virgin of the Lord and keep her for thyself.

And Joseph refused saying: I have sons, and I am an old man, but she is a girl: lest I become a laughing-stock to the children of Israel.”





The Annunciation March 25

POJ 11:1-2 “.... And lo a voice saying: Hail, thou that art highly favored; the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.... And Mary said: Behold the handmaid of the Lord is before him: be it unto me according to thy word....”

LUKE 1:26-38 “...the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph..... And coming to her, he said, “Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you....”

Joseph's Decision Not to Put Mary Away

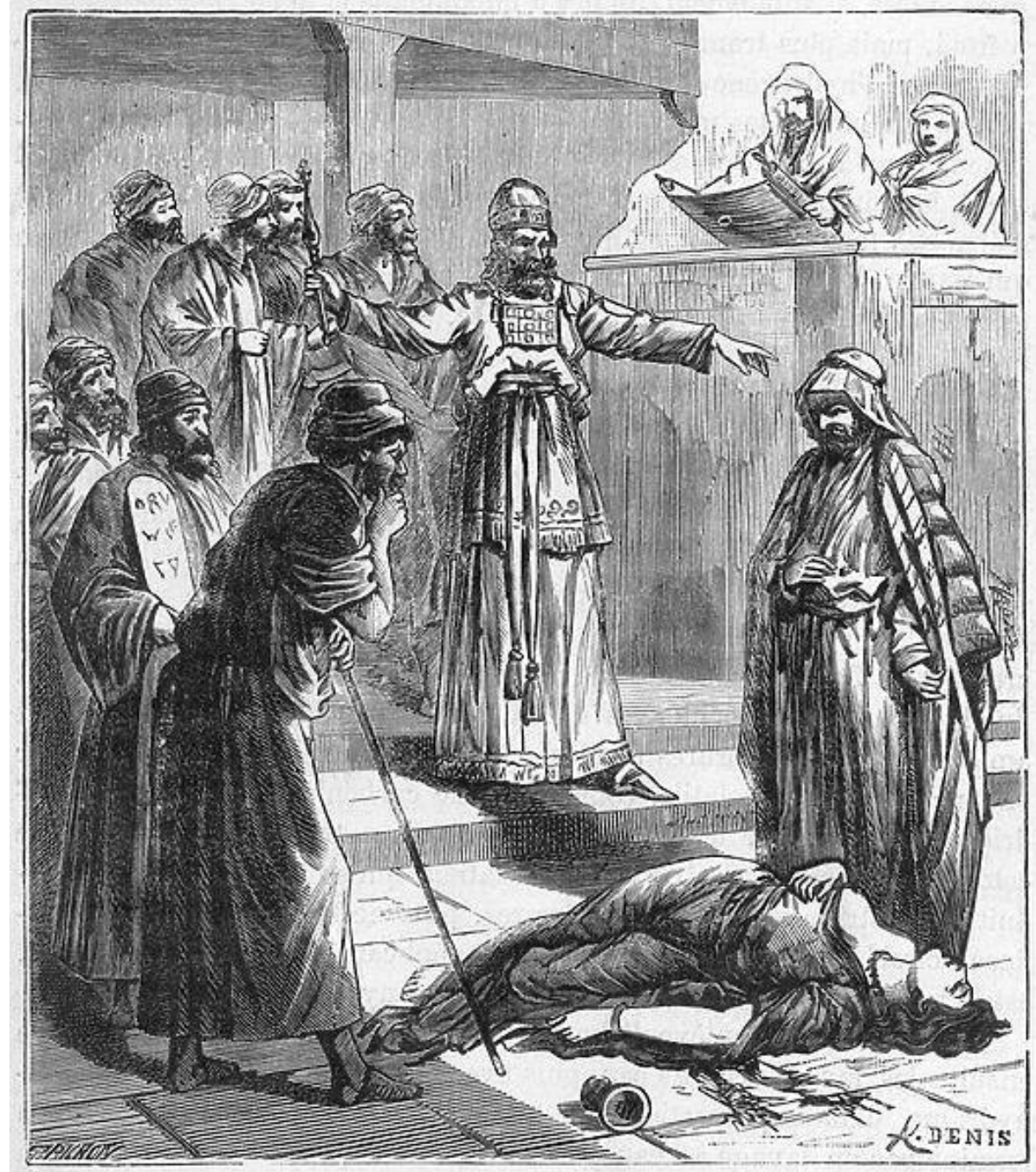
POJ 14:2 "...And behold an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying: Fear not this child, for that which is in her is of the Holy Ghost.....he shall save his people from their sins..."

MATT 1:19-25 "Joseph.....decided to divorce her quietly.....when, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said....'do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home....It is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her..'"



The Test of Bitter Waters

POJ 16:1-3 “.....and the priest said: I will give you to drink of the water of the conviction of the Lord, and it will make manifest your sins before your eyes..... He made Joseph drink and sent him into the hill-country. And he returned whole. He made Mary also drink and sent her into the hill-country. And she returned whole.....”



Mary's Visit to Elizabeth



POJ 12:2-8 “.... Mary rejoiced and went away to Elizabeth her kinswoman....and she abode three months with Elizabeth....she was sixteen years old when these mysteries came to pass...”

LUKE 1:39-56 “Mary set out and traveled ... to a town of Judah....where she entered the house of Zechariah.....’My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my savior...”

The Birth of Jesus. Where Was It?

In a cave?

POJ 18:1-19:2 “And he found a cave and brought her into it....and sought for a midwife of the Hebrews in the country of Bethlehem..”



MATT 2:1 “...Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod...”

LUKE 2:4-7 “...Joseph went up from... Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem.... While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger.....”

In a manger?



Did the Act of Giving Birth Spoil Mary's Virginity?

POJ 19:3-20:4 – Salome tests Mary for virginity. Her hand is burned off but later restored.

This story about the midwife's companion Salome was popular among early Christians, although highly doubtful as to being true. However, it does illustrate a faith from the earliest days of the perpetual virginity of Mary. SEE THE NEXT SLIDE.



From the Official Catechism of the Catholic Church

Mary—“ever-virgin”

499 The deepening of faith in the virginal motherhood led the Church to confess Mary’s real and perpetual virginity even in the act of giving birth to the Son of God made man.¹⁵⁴ In fact, Christ’s birth “did not diminish his mother’s virginal integrity but sanctified it.”¹⁵⁵ And so the liturgy of the Church celebrates Mary as *Aeiparthenos*, the “Ever-virgin.”¹⁵⁶

The visit of the Shepherds

LUKE 2:8-20”When the angels went away from them to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go, then, to Bethlehem, to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’”



The Circumcision of Jesus (Solemnity of Mary) - January 1

LUKE 2:21 “When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.”



The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple February 2

LUKE 2:22-40 “When the days were completed for their purification ... they took him up to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord There was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon ... It had been revealed to him by the holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord

NOTE: The purification of the mother, under Mosaic Law, is normally completed forty days after the birth of the child.



The Visit of the Magi

POJ 21:1-4 ...”Behold, Joseph made him ready to go forth into Judaea. And there came a great tumult in Bethlehem of Judaea; for there came wise men saying : Where is he that is born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east...”

MATT 2:1-12 “When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, ‘Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.’”



The Slaughter of the Innocents – December 28

POJ 22:1-2 “When Herod perceived that he was mocked by the wise men.... He sent murderers, saying unto them: Slay the children from two years old and under And Mary took the young child and wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid him in an ox-manger...”

MATT 2:16-18 “When Herod realized he had been deceived He ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under...”





The Flight into Egypt

MATT 2:13-15 “When they (the Magi) had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you....’”

NOTE: Matthew is the only Gospel that includes the Flight to Egypt. POJ also does not include it. However, the Gospel of Pseudo Matthew does include it.