

The Incarnation

Birth of Jesus

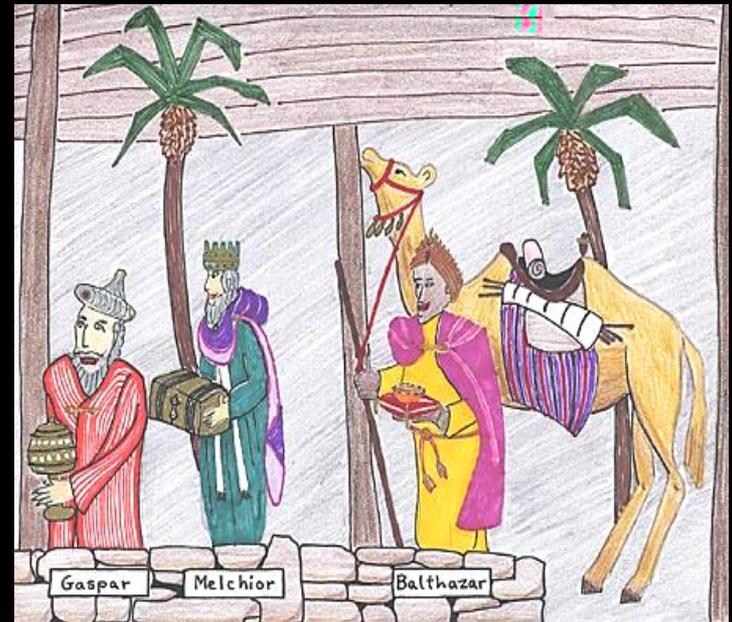
- Only Luke and Matthew include infancy narratives
- Only Matthew includes information about the Magi
- Matthew speaks of the death of the babies and flight to Egypt
- Luke has a more joyful tone
- The scene at the manger, the shepherds,...

Nunc Dimittis (Now dismissed)

- In pagan cultures first born son was sacrificed to Gods
- Israelites modified this – first born son was brought to the temple and offered to God in thanksgiving
- This where Simeon's song of thanksgiving comes from
- This prayer has been used in the Church's evening prayer for 1500 years
- Also called "Candlemas Day" – People would bring candles to Mass to be blessed – Jesus the light of the world

The Epiphany

- The magi- wise men acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah
- Wise men- Casper, Melchoir, Balthassar



Understanding Jesus

True God and true man

Understanding Jesus

- Identity: the term *Lord* is used as we believe Jesus to be divine
- Lord is usually used in the OT in connection with God
- We use the term *savior* because of the belief that Jesus saved all of humanity by dying for our sins

Natures of Jesus

- As God Jesus had a fully divine nature
- Could perform miracles, cure the sick, raise the dead....
- As man: had human mother, grew up much like other people
- He taught, preached, suffered, was crucified, died

Human nature of Jesus

- Had physical body, five senses, could experience pain, joy and sorrow
- Gospel of John – cried at the death of his friend Lazarus
- Had to learn to walk, talk, speak,
- How to act, think like a human being
- How to be human

Could Jesus sin?

- Being human means having a free will
- Choosing to do good or evil
- We don't determine what is good or evil – an act is good or evil in itself
- We choose to do good or evil
- In His human nature Jesus chose to do good
- This didn't make him less human – it made him more fully human
- Humanity perfected

Did Jesus have a wife and kids?

- Some topics are not addressed by the Bible
- We assume he was not married as a wife is never mentioned
 - ◆ Cf Peter –
- Bible is silent
- Tradition also tells us that Jesus never married

Did Jesus have brothers and sisters?

- Catholic tradition tells us Mary had only one son
- The Gospels do refer to the 'brothers and sisters' of Jesus
- The word used in the Greek is ***adelphoi***
- Can be translated "brother"
- Also means "cousin" or relative"
- If Jesus had brothers where were they at the crucifixion?
- Only John and Mary were present

Divine nature of Jesus

- We believe Jesus to be divine: walked on water, performed miracles, rose from the dead
- 2nd person of the Trinity
- 3 persons – One God
- Was both human and divine at the same time
- Was born both human and divine
- Is a mystery of our faith
- Became human to save all humans from death

Questions

- When did Jesus fully realize who and what he was?
- Debated for centuries