

*St. Mary of the Assumption Parish  
Lancaster, NY  
December 11, 2016*



### *Family activity # 8*

We are very close to Christmas, and you are probably very busy with Christmas preparations. Today's session will be very short.

The gospels of Matthew and Luke tell the story of Jesus' birth and infancy in different ways. While they do have much in common such as Bethlehem, Mary, Joseph, Jesus, and supernatural signs, the differences between the two remain striking.

**Activity 1:** Read aloud the story of Jesus' birth: Matthew 1:18 – 2:23. Have each family member write a few things they heard. If necessary, someone may read this again. Have the family members compare their notes.

Then, have someone read the same story from Luke 1:26-45 – 2:1-10. Again, have each family member write down a few things they heard. Then, ask family members compare their notes.

**Journal entry:** List a few of the differences you discovered between the two Gospel stories of the Nativity of Jesus. You may comment about what you discovered.

Then, read the information on page 2 of this Activity sheet and to see how many of the differences you found.

**Activity # 2** - Watch this you tube video as a family. It is geared toward little children, but all who view it can learn something about the first Christmas!

You tube - The Christmas Story – cherub wings (6 min 10 sec)

**Journal entry:** What did you learn from the you tube story about the first Christmas? What is your favorite part of the story of the First Christmas? Why?

### **Matthew 1:18-2:23**

- Angel announces birth of Jesus to Joseph in a dream
- Joseph has a house in Bethlehem where he lives with Mary and Jesus.
- Magi discern the birth of Jesus from a star, and find Jesus in Bethlehem after consulting King Herod. They go to a house (not a stable) and present him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The magi are told in a dream not to tell Herod where Jesus is.
- Joseph is told in a dream to flee to Egypt to escape Herod's murderous plot against Jesus.
- Matthew mentions nothing of a manger, a stable, shepherds, the annunciation to Mary (Mary never speaks a word in Matthew's version), the visit to Elizabeth, hosts of angels, or a census.

### **Luke 1:26-45; 2:1-20**

- Angel announces birth of Jesus to Mary
- There is a census that moves Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem. When they arrive, there is no room at the inn, so Jesus is born in a stable.
- Shepherds are told of Jesus birth by an angel and they come to visit him in the stable.
- A multitude of angels praise God at the birth of Jesus.
- Luke mentions nothing of a star, the magi, Joseph's dreams or his desire to divorce Mary, Herod's jealousy and murderous plot, or a trip to Egypt.