



Catechist Connection



The Nativity of Christ is celebrated on December 25/January 7. It is an immovable Feast. This icon is divided into 9 sections. The top 3 sections include the Choirs of Angels to the left singing “Glory to God in the highest and Peace to People on Earth!” The Center section has the half-moon with the stream, a circle and three strands coming out of it. This is the Voice of the Father, the Holy Spirit and the Presence of God. The third section is the Angel talking to the Shepherd telling him not to be afraid but to go and worship the Christ Child.

The Second row includes the Three Kings riding on horses following the star, the

Child wrapped in swaddling cloths and laid in a manger, Mary and the Shepherd. In the Cave are also the Ox and the Donkey because they know their Master and they follow Him according to the Prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 1:3). The Child Jesus is Brilliant white against the Dark background of the Cave. He is the Light that comes into our Darkness. He is also dressed in funeral cloths as a reminder that He will die for our salvation. Mary is turned away from Him, not because she doesn’t care, but because she is overwhelmed by the immensity of the mystery.

In the final Row, Joseph is sitting in the corner looking confused. What has just happened? A stranger is speaking to him. Some say it is an angel comforting him and telling him it is God’s plan, others say it is the devil tempting him. Midwives prepare a bath for the Christ child and show us that He is truly human because even the most human of tasks need to be performed. The Stranger in the corner is the Shepherd who comes to worship the Christ Child.

Christ our Pascha has this to say about the Nativity:

195. Creation joyfully welcomes God in the flesh, bearing gifts for the newborn Child: angels – their song; the heavens – a star; the magi – gold, frankincense, and myrrh; the shepherds – their wonder; the earth – a cave; the deserted place – a manger; humankind – the Virgin Mother. The mystery of the Nativity, namely God’s entry into human history continues to this day: “Today has God come upon earth, and the human race gone up to heaven.”

As we continue to prepare for this great Feast, let us contemplate on the reality that God-is-with-us. This truth should reverberate in our hearts and in our minds daily but especially at Christmas as we contemplate the mystery of the Incarnation.

May your celebration of the Nativity of Christ bring you a deep sense of inner peace knowing that God is truly with you.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!