

FIRST STATION: The Annunciation

A reading from Luke chapter 1: verses 30-31 and 38.

“ And the angel said to her, ‘Fear not, Mary, for you have found favor with God, You will bear a son and call his name, Jesus, and he will be great’...And Mary said,’ Behold the handmaid of the Lord: let it be done to me according to your word.”

Let us meditate on the thought that we do not know Mary before this moment. We quickly discover her loving spirit, her deep sense of God’s presence, and her willingness to let God lead her wherever he wants. Despite her fears, she gives a truly humble and faithful “yes” to whatever God asks.

Let us Pray: Lord God, you who do miracles in the souls of those who love you, help each of us to cooperate with your grace in our lives and to give our will to you without reserve. Amen

SECOND STATION: The Visitation

A reading from Luke, chapter 1: verses 41 and 42:

“When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leapt in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke with a loud voice, saying ‘Blessed are you among woman and blessed is the fruit of your womb’ “

Let us meditate on how the grace of the holy spirit helped Elizabeth “see” that Mary was specially blessed by God with a child who would do wonderful things for all people. Elizabeth was also able to understand that Mary had accepted this gift with love and faithfulness. We, too, can pay attention to the spirit, which will help us know what is right and help us feel the joy and peace of always choosing God’s will.

Let us pray: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you, among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen

THIRD STATION: The Magnificat

A reading from Luke, Chapter 1: verses 46-47,49,50,53,and 54

“My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...for He that is mighty has done great things for me...his mercy is on those who fear him in every generation ...He fills the hungry with good things.. and He helps His servant Israel. “

Let us meditate as Mary sings one of the most famous songs in the Bible. She thanks God for the great blessing he has brought her, but she does not dwell on her own importance. She quickly goes on to remember all the times God had helped Israel. She moves past her own good fortune to praise God for saving the poor, the hungry, and the humble.

Let us pray: Through the intercession of Mary, our Mother, may God make the sick well, the troubled calm, and the wounded healed. Amen

FOURTH STATION: The Birth of John the Baptist

A reading from Luke, chapter 1: verses 57-58 and 62-63:

“ Elizabeth’s time came for delivery, and she gave birth to a son, and her neighbors and relatives rejoiced with her...they made signs to the child’s father how he would name him and he wrote, ‘his name is John’.”

Let us meditate on how St. Luke weaves the birth of John the Baptist into the story of how Jesus was born because they are closely related in God’s plan. The name “John” means “God gives favor” or “God has mercy”. John will go before Jesus to announce his coming as the day of God’s favor, mercy and salvation for the whole world. John will call on everyone who hears him to repent and to prepare for the Lord.

Let us pray: Father, you sent John the Baptist before your Son to warn us to give up our sinful ways and to seek your forgiveness. May we recognize Jesus when he comes into our lives and welcome his love into our hearts. Amen.

FIFTH STATION: The Prophecy of Zechariah

A reading from Luke chapter 1- verses: 67-68 and 74-75.

“Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied saying, ‘Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people...that we might serve him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.’”

Let us meditate on Zechariah, John’s father who is given the gift to foresee that his child will become the greatest prophet of all time. John will prepare the way for Jesus. In Jesus, God remembers his covenant with his servant Israel, offers forgiveness of sins, and brings peace and light to all peoples of the world.

Let us Pray: O God, who sent John the Baptist to remind us of your eternal mercy, grant that we turn from our sins and treat one another with justice, love, and respect always. Amen

SIXTH STATION: Joseph's Dream

A reading from Matthew-chapter 1: verses 20-21

“Behold, the Angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, you son of David, fear not to take to yourself Mary your wife...she shall bring forth a son and you will call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins’.”

Let us meditate on how Joseph loved Mary his bride to be, but what of the child she was clearly carrying? He decided to send Mary away. Then, Joseph was visited by an angel and told of the child's divine origin. Should Joseph now do what society expected or make the more difficult choice and listen to the word of God?

Let us Pray: God our Father, help us to imitate the faith and trust of Joseph, the earthly guardian of your divine Son, Jesus, and to seek your help in all our troubles. Amen.

SEVENTH STATION: Joseph takes Mary into his home

A reading from Matthew, chapter 1: verses 24-25.

“Then Joseph awakened from sleep and did as the Angel of the Lord had commanded him and received Mary as his wife. And she brought forth her firstborn son and called his name, Jesus.”

Let us mediate on how the angel told Joseph to name the child, Jesus. In Hebrew this means ‘God saves’ his people. The angel also gave the child a second name, Emmanuel. This means “God is with us” . When Joseph woke, he received the blessing of this name right away. His decision was difficult, but he acted with faith and obeyed God’s words. By bringing Mary and her baby into his home, Joseph truly had God with him.

Let us Pray: O Loving Father, you sent your son, Jesus. to live with us on earth that we might live with him forever in heaven. Grant that we may stay close to him all the days of our lives. Amen.

EIGHTH STATION: The Journey to Bethlehem

A reading from Luke, Chapter 2: verse 4-5

“And Joseph went up from Gallilee from the town of Nazareth into Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem with his engaged wife, mary, who was near to giving birth in order to pay the tax there.”

Let us meditate on how until now the events preparing for the birth of Jesus seem guided by God’s hand often through miracles and dreams. But now a long difficult trip had to be made, commaded by Rome. Even when Joseph and Mary arrived in Bethlehem, their problems were not over; there was no room at the inn. If they were following God’s word why wasn’t life easier?

Let us Pray: O Lord, be with us in every pain and difficulty and give us the courage to put up with hardships in our lives. Let us serve you as faithfully as did Mary and Joseph. Amen

NINTH STATION: The Birth of Jesus

A reading from the book of Luke, Chapter 2; verses 6-7

“And so it was, that while they were there, her days were completed so that she was to give birth. And she brought forth her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn.”

Let us meditate on the thought that in a barn, among God’s animals, Jesus was born. He came into the world as small and helpless as any human being ever did. This way, he could be a friend and savior for every kind of person: rich or poor, young or old, important or unimportant.

Let us Pray:

O God of all love and mercy, look upon us with kindness when we are most in need and the least important in the eyes of others. Help us also to imitate the love and kindness Jesus had for all people. Amen.

TENTH STATION: The Announcement of the Angels

A reading from Luke- chapter 2: verses 8-11.

“And there were shepherds in the same area watching their flocks by night, and behold the angel of the Lord appeared to them.. and said, ‘Fear not, I bring you good news of great joy to all peoples, for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord’.”

Let us meditate on that the angel said ”Fear not”. These words are repeated often in the Bible. The ways of God are great and mysterious and can sometimes be frightening. But they are also filled with love for all of his creatures. Here were words of the greatest love- that a Savior had come for all peoples.

Let us Pray: O Lord our God, who made all things out of love help me to give you thanks and praise always for your goodness and to see your loving hand in my life. Amen.

ELEVENTH STATION-The Shepherds Share the Good News

A reading from Luke Chapter 2: verses 15-17.

“The shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go then to Bethlehem and see this event which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child.”

Let us meditate on if someone became king today, who would be told first? Other kings, presidents, the rich and the powerful? Yet when Jesus, King of Kings, was born, the news was told first to the lowly. Though simple people, the shepherds recognized God’s work hidden in the stable. Amazed by what they saw, the shepherds then told everyone they knew and praised God aloud for his goodness.

Let us Pray: O Lord, open my ears to everyone who speaks your name, and loosen my tongue at every chance to praise you. Amen.

TWELFTH STATION: The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple

A reading from Luke, Chapter 2: Verses 22 & 24.

“They took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord...in accordance with the commandment in the Law of the Lord”

Let us meditate on how in the Jewish faith, it is an important commandment that the first-born is brought to the temple to be offered to God for blessing. The first child of a family represents the special love God had for the whole Jewish people when he saved them from slavery in Egypt and made them his chosen people.

Let us Pray: Lord God, you remind us that we are all chosen and cared for by you. Keep us close to you as part of your family. Help each of us to act as a true child of God in everything that we do. Amen.

THIRTEENTH STATION- The Blessing of Simeon

A reading from Luke, Chapter 2: verses 28-32.

“Simeon took the boy into his arms and blessed God, saying ‘Now Lord, you may let your servant die in peace. For according to your word, my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all peoples, a light of revelation for the pagans and the glory of your people Israel’.”

Let us meditate on how when Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple, they met two holy prophets, Simeon and Anna. Simeon rejoiced that his life was now complete because he saw in the child the savior of the whole world. Anna, whose words followed, praised God as well, then told everyone that the redeemer had been sent.

Let us Pray: Oh God of all love, help me to see your face in the faces of my friend and enemies alike, and to treat every human being as a gift from you, deserving my love. Amen.

FOURTEENTH STATION: The Wise Men Come From the East

A reading from Matthew, Chapter 2: verses 1&2.

“When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea...wise men came from the east to Jerusalem saying, ‘Where is the new –born King of the Jews? We have seen his star at its rising and have come to pay him honor.’”

Let us meditate on how the story of the wise men from the east showed that even foreigners recognized that salvation had come. They traveled into the unknown, both the unknown land of Israael and the unknown land of a world touch by God.

Let us Pray: O Great God, bless your children everywhere, and help all people to love one another and live at peace with one another. Amen.