

Exploring the Stories of Jesus' Birth, through Scripture, Art, and Culture Infancy Narrative Presentations by Greg Kozak, at Saint Gilbert Parish



Do you ever wonder why the supposed *wise* men brought unusable gifts for a newborn and his parents? Was it because they were wise *men*? Or are you confused about why Matthew's gospel describes magi visiting the newborn Jesus, but Luke's gospel only describes shepherds? Did they just happen to watch different news channels' coverage of the event?

The parts of the Bible that we Catholics seem to treasure most are the stories of Jesus' birth, known as the "Infancy Narratives." These stories are full of rich images and memorable characters, but they can also confuse us with strange references.

Take some time before the holiday rush to focus on the true meaning of Christmas and come to understand the birth of Jesus in a way you never have before. Parishioner Greg Kozak will share the insights of recent scripture scholarship to unpack the rich meaning present in these powerful stories. You'll finally be able to understand why Matthew presents all those names at the beginning of his story; why Luke includes additional characters like Zechariah, Simeon and Anna; and why one includes kings and the other shepherds. You'll also get to experience the explosion of powerful art that arose from these stories. And you'll be the hit (or bane) of Christmas parties by being able to explain some of the other traditions surrounding the birth of Jesus: the names of the magi, where they traveled from, the meaning of their gifts, the names of Mary's parents, the animals associated with the nativity, and the date of Christmas.

This two-night presentation (one for Matthew and one for Luke) will take place in the Multi-Purpose Room from 7:00pm to 8:00pm on Tuesday, December 4th and Tuesday, December 11th. For those wishing to refresh their memory of these stories, you are invited to come 15 minutes early, at 6:45 each night, to listen to one of the Infancy Narratives as a whole – an experience we rarely get to enjoy.