

## DEACON JIM MCFADDEN

**PRESENTS**

**ADVENT 2023**

*The Infancy Narratives*

**AN ONLINE SERIES**



**Week 1: November 27, 7pm**

*Introduction: The Infancy Narratives*

The Advent/Christmas season is a very special time for Christians, which is augmented by our Biblical knowledge. So much of Advent readings contain Old Testament readings and references in which we see a prophetic preparation of God's people for the anticipated coming of the Messiah, which is relived in the Infancy Narratives contained in chapters 1-2 in Matthew and Luke's Gospel. For Advent 2023 we will be reflecting on the Infancy Narratives contained in Matthew's Gospel.

**Week 2: December 4, 7pm**

*The Birth of Jesus and the Visit of the Magi*

The Birth of Jesus in Matthew's Gospel is told from the perspective of Joseph, while Mary is in the background. Joseph receives the message of the pending birth in a dream. The latter in the Old Testament is one of the ways that God communicates with humanity. So, Joseph is the Hebraic tradition of God communicating Revelation through dreams.

**Week 3: December 11, 7pm**

*Flight, Tragic Murder, Return*

The rest of Chapter Two has to deal with movement: of flight, tragic murder which portends the death of Jesus, and the return to Nazareth. Having heard of the birth of Jesus, the visit of the Magi, we now learn of the flight to Egypt, the weeping of the women of Bethlehem who mourn the massacre of the infants, and the return from Egypt and settling in Nazareth. Again, these are older stories bubbling under the surface that help to explain the story of Jesus.

**Week 4: December 18, 7pm**

*The Annunciation*

After finishing our study of Matthew's Infancy Narratives, we will now spend time with the Gospel for the 4th Sunday of Advent, which is about The Annunciation, in which we will see that Mary, being the Mother of God and therefore, the Mother of the Church, will be a model of a missionary disciple who brings the Good News to the world.

To register for the series, please email  
**Theresa Grant at [tgrant@talkpathlive.com](mailto:tgrant@talkpathlive.com)**

You will receive an email prior to the scheduled session with the Zoom link & instructions. Please check your spam/junk mail in case you do not receive the email in your inbox.

NOTE: WEEKLY ATTENDANCE IS NOT REQUIRED!  
Recordings available!

