04 - The Humanity of Christ

(The symbol \* indicates the next powerpoint slide)

\*In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth,

to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin’s name was Mary.

Betrothal means they were married in a modern sense, but she was a virgin. They were not intimate in that way but were able to be legally and morally.

\*Mary was a dedicated virgin, vowed to abstinence, and Joseph knew that when they got betrothed.

Jesus comes into he world as a pat of a family, with grandparents and parents and cousins and uncles and aunts and the whole complex grouping that is a family.

But Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?”

And the angel said to her in reply, “The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.

And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived\* a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God.”

Mary knew how babies wee conceived and knew that God would never ask her to break a solemn vow of abstinence. She is told that she will be the mother, but the father will not be a human being but rather the Holy Spirit, God Himself, in a unique way.

This will be no ordinary baby, but will still be human, born of a woman.

\*Most of the life of Jesus is unknown, showing that it was an unremarkable life, ordinary to all outsiders

He would have gone to school, learned a trade from His adoptive father Joseph, and done chores.

\*Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover,

and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom.

After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it.

Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him.

\*He went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart.

\*His parents were extraordinary people, saintly and loving, but they had their own set of trials and sorrows. Driven from their homeland, living in Egypt, coming back to a new town, and suffering the death of Jospeh.

\*His life was so ordinary that some people in His hometown had trouble accepting that He was anything but human.

Is this not the son of Joseph? Do we not know is brothers and sisters? He did no major work there due to their unbelief.

So what have we gained?

\*Jesus was fully human in every sense of the word. He was hungry, he was thirsty, his ft hurt, he got blisters and splinters and skinned knees learning to walk.

\*Jesus is fully divine….

We say in the creed “true God and true man, begotten not made, consubstantial with the Father

\*So Jesus is just like us, and Jesus is nothing like us.

Jesus knows our humanity because He is fully human just like us.

Jesus knows our humanity because Jesus is God and holds us in being.

\*St. John writes in his Gospel:

In the beginning was the Word,

and the Word was with God,

and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God.

All things came to be through him,

and without him nothing came to be.

What came to be

through him was life,

and this life was the light of the human race;

He was in the world,

and the world came to be through him,

but the world did not know him.

He came to what was his own,

but his own people\* did not accept him.

But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name,

who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man’s decision but of God.

And the Word became flesh

and made his dwelling among us,

and we saw his glory,

the glory as of the Father’s only Son,

full of grace and truth.