**Meetings & Classes on Zoom**

**JP2 Circle for young adult & youth.**

Monthly meeting on the First Wednesday of each month via Zoom.

Next meeting on November 4 (Wednesday) from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm with Rosary, Devotion to St. Joseph,

learning about modern youth saints, and discussion.

Please contact Father Anthony (fatheranthonyho@gmail.ocm)

**Online or in-person Catechism classes for adults (RCIA)**

Class in English on Wednesday from 7 pm to 8 pm · Class in Cantonese on Saturday from 2:30 pm to 3:30

pm · Class in Mandarin on Thursday from 10:30 am to 11:30 am.

**Online or in-person Catechism classes for children (PREP)** on Tuesday from 4:15 pm to 5 pm

Grade 1 to Grade 3 in-person class (Catechesis of the Good Shepherd)

Grade 4 to Grade 7 in-person or online (zoom)

**The Nativity teaches us humility**

The Third Joyful Mystery of the Rosary is the Nativity of the Lord. St. Luke wrote, “And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn” (Luke 2:4–7).

The King of kings could have chosen to be born in a palace in luxury, but He chose to be born in poverty and obscurity. He chose to identify humbly with the poor.

Venerable Fulton J. Sheen wrote, “The manger and the Cross thus stand at the two extremities of the Savior’s life! He accepted the manger because there was no room in the inn; He accepted the Cross because men said, ‘We will not have this Man for our king.’ Disowned upon entering, rejected upon leaving, He was laid in a stranger’s stable at the beginning, and a stranger’s grave at the end. An ox and an ass surrounded His crib at Bethlehem; two thieves were to flank His Cross on Calvary. He was wrapped in swaddling bands in His birthplace, He was again laid in swaddling clothes in His tomb—clothes symbolic of the limitations imposed on His Divinity when He took a human form.”

A Bible commentator pointed out: “Bethlehem means ‘house of bread.’ A manger, mentioned three times by Luke (2:7, 12, 16), is a box where fodder is put to feed livestock. Jesus, the bread of life (John 6:35) begins His infant life in a feed trough, or breadbox.”

In contrast to the simple earthly reality of the birth of Christ is the glorious proclamation of the angel to the shepherds. The angel announced: “To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11)

Another Bible commentator pointed out that Jesus’ life was introduced in terms of three titles: Savior points to his role as deliverer; Christ points to his office in terms of the promised Anointed One of God; and Lord indicates his sovereign authority.

The shepherds went in haste and encountered the new born Christ. Venerable Fulton J. Sheen wrote, “Only two classes of people found the Babe: the shepherds and the Wise Men; the simple and the learned; those who knew that they knew nothing, and those who knew that they did not know everything. He is never seen by the man of one book; never by the man who thinks he knows. Not even God can tell the proud anything! Only the humble can find God!”

St. Augustine said, “The shepherds were Israelites; the Magi, Gentiles. The first lived nearby; the latter, far away. Yet both came to the cornerstone, Christ”

Commenting on the Christmas Mystery, the Catechism of the Catholic Church states:

“To become a child in relation to God is the condition for entering the kingdom. For this, we must humble ourselves and become little. Even more: to become ‘children of God’ we must be ‘born from above’ or ‘born of God.’ Only when Christ is formed in us will the mystery of Christmas be fulfilled in us. Christmas is the mystery of this ‘marvelous exchange’:

O marvelous exchange! Man’s Creator has become man, born of the Virgin. We have been made sharers in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share our humanity.”

St. Faustina wrote about a mystical experience: “﻿When I started the Holy Hour, I wanted to immerse myself in the agony of Jesus in the Garden of Olives. Then I heard a voice in my soul: Meditate on the mystery of the Incarnation. And suddenly the Infant Jesus appeared before me, radiant with beauty. He told me how much God is pleased with simplicity in a soul: ‘Although my greatness is beyond understanding, I commune only with those who are little. I demand of you a childlike spirit.’”