Prologue Narrative: The Ancestry and Infancy of Jesus
Chapter 1-2
September 15th

Read chapters 1-2 and list the main ideas in brief bullet points.

Genealogies were used to show family origin, economic, tribal, and political connections. Who does Matthew center his extensive genealogy on (1:1)?

Why would this be important?

How do the following verses impact your answer:

Genesis 12:1-3

Genesis 15:7-21

Genesis 17: 1-21

Genesis 22: 16-18

2 Samuel 7: 8-16

Psalm 132:11-18

List the five women Matthew includes in the genealogy. Why do you think Matthew included them?

How does Matthew deviate from his pattern in 1:16? Why?

Who does Matthew list by name and title in the genealogy (1:6; 16)? Why is this important?

How does Matthew divide the generations in 1:17?

What number does he stress? We will discuss in class why this is significant.

Summarize 1:18-19? How does Matthew characterize Joseph?

Who is Joseph's father (1:16)?

Who shared these names (Genesis 29:29-30; 30:22-24)?

What common characteristic do these Josephs share (Genesis 37:5; Matthew 1:20)?

What does the angel of the Lord tell Joesph (1:20-23)?

Why would it be important the Joseph chose not to put Mary away? Use your previous answers to help reason.

Who will name Jesus (1:21)?

What will Jesus do (1:21)?

How does this differ from what many would want saving from?

Matthew 1:23 quotes Isaiah 7:14. Read Isaiah chapter 7 and list bullet points for the original context. We will discuss the connection more in class.

What does the name Emmanuel mean (1:23)?

How does Matthew connect this verse with the ending of his Gospel (28:20)?

What actions does Joseph take and what is implied (1:24-25)?

Where is Jesus born (2:1)?

Where do the wise men travel (2:1)?

Who did they come to worship and who did they inquire of the birth (2:2-3)?

Describe King Herod's response. Why?

Who does he call to inquire of the Christ's birth (2:4)?

Matthew 2:6 quotes Micah 5:2. Read Micah 5 and list bullet points for the original context. We will discuss the connection more in class.

What does King Herod ask of the wise men (2:7-8)?

What do they bring to Jesus (2:11)?

How do 1:20, 2:12, and 2:13-15 relate? What does this imply?

How does 2:13-15 mirror Genesis 46:1-4?

Matthew 2:15 quotes Hosea 11:1. What is the original event Hosea is mentioning (Exodus 4:22)?

What actions does King Herod take 2:16?

Matthew 2:17-18 quotes Jeremiah 31:15. Who is Rachel representing? We will discuss the connection in class.

Summarize 2:19-22.

Write the prophecy Matthew quotes in 2:23.

No prophecy corresponds to this exact wording. However, Matthew seems to paraphrase the message of several prophets.

Nazareth is associated with the Hebrew word “netzer” meaning branch.

Apply this information with the following prophecies:

Isaiah 11:1:

Jeremiah 23:5-6:

Jeremiah 33:14-16:

Zechariah 3:8:

Zechariah 6:11-13:

What is Matthew implying about the town where Jesus was raised?

Matthew 1 and 2 in the Lectionary

Read the following and reflect on how these readings connect. First Reading, Responsorial Psalm and Gospel readings usually have a matching theme. Second Reading is read semi-continuously rather than being tied to the Gospel.

Fourth Sunday Advent (Year A):

Isaiah 7:10-14
Psalm 24:1-6
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-24

Christmas Vigil (All Years):

Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25
Matthew 1:1-25 (or 1:18-25)

March 19: Solemnity of Saint Joseph (All Years)

2 Samuel 7:4-5, 12-14, 16
Psalm 89:2-5, 27, 29
Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22
Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24 (or Luke 2:41-51)

January 6th Epiphany of the Lord (All Years):

Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8,10-11, 12-13
Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

Feast of the Holy Family (Sunday within the Octave of Christmas Year A):

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
Psalm 128: 1-5
Colossians 3:12-21
Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

December 28: Holy Innocents (All Years)

Jeremiah 31:15-17
Psalm 124: 2-8
1 John 1:5-22
Matthew 2:13-18