

Study Lesson Number: 19

THE INCARNATION CONTINUED:

Is St. Joseph the father of Jesus Christ?

Jesus Christ had no human father, but St. Joseph was the spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the guardian, or FOSTER FATHER, of Christ.

St. Joseph was not the father of Christ in the flesh, as our human fathers are. He was, though, really Mary's husband and did have a father's rights over Christ, the Son of God.

When was Christ born?

Christ was born of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Christmas Day, in Bethlehem, more than nineteen hundred years ago.

How many years did Jesus Christ live on earth?

Jesus Christ lived on earth about thirty-three years.

How did Jesus Christ spend His life on earth?

Jesus Christ spent His childhood, youth and early manhood in the home of His mother Mary and His foster father Joseph, working as a carpenter in the village of Nazareth in Palestine; He spent His last years in the work of His public ministry.

What work did Jesus Christ perform in the course of His public ministry?

In the course of His public ministry Jesus Christ gave us an example of great virtue, preached the message of salvation, proved the truth of His message through miracles and prophecies, and established the Church with its sacrafice and sacraments for the salvation of men until the end of time.

He showed that He was a witness sent by the Father to lead men to heaven. "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, but through Me". (John 14-6)

Discussion Questions:

1. Just Who is Jesus Christ?
2. How many persons are there in Christ? Explain.
3. Did God force Mary to become the Mother of Christ? Explain.
4. What was the difference between Mary's way of acting toward God and Eve's way of acting?
5. If Mary had said "no" to the angel, could God have forced her consent?
6. What is the meaning of the expression: "The Word was made flesh"?
7. Explain: Mary became a mother of God by the power of the Holy Spirit.
8. When Christ became man, did He lose His divine nature? Explain.

Read from the Bible:

- St. Luke Chapters 1 and 2
- St. Matthew: Chapters 1 and 2
- St. John: Chapter 1 - 1-14
- Epistle to the Galatians: Chapter 4 - 1-7
- Epistle to the Colossians: Chapter 1 - 15-20