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Introduction

The Birth of the Lord Jesus Christ

Once upon a time there lived a young maiden named Mary in the City of Nazareth. A young maiden is a lady who is not married. The Angel of the Lord, named Archangel Gabriel, came to her one day and said, *“Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!”*

St Mary did not know what the archangel meant so he continued to say, *“Do not be afraid Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Lord Jesus Christ. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Highest.”* St Mary was not sure how this was going to occur so the Archangel Gabriel said, *“The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.”*

So, St Mary went to visit her cousin, St Elizabeth, who was also with child. St Elizabeth was to also have a son, St John the Baptist. Even though St John the Baptist was in his mother’s womb at the time of St Mary’s visit, he jumped joyfully inside his mother. Then the Holy Spirit filled St Elizabeth and she recognized that in front of her was St Mary, the mother of God.

Afterwards, St Mary returned home and in the fullness of time, would give birth. But the king wanted everyone to go and register in his own city. So, St Joseph the carpenter, the one in whose care St Mary was given, took her to a small town called Bethlehem. In Bethlehem, they looked for a place to stay but there was not a room in an inn anywhere. Finally, they found a lowly shelter for animals and chose to stay the night there. St Mary gave birth to the Son of God in a manger. She named Him, “Jesus” who was to become the Lord Jesus Christ, the Anointed Holy One of God.

At the same time of the Holy birth, an angel appeared to the humble shepherds that were watching their sheep and told them that in the City of David, in the small town of

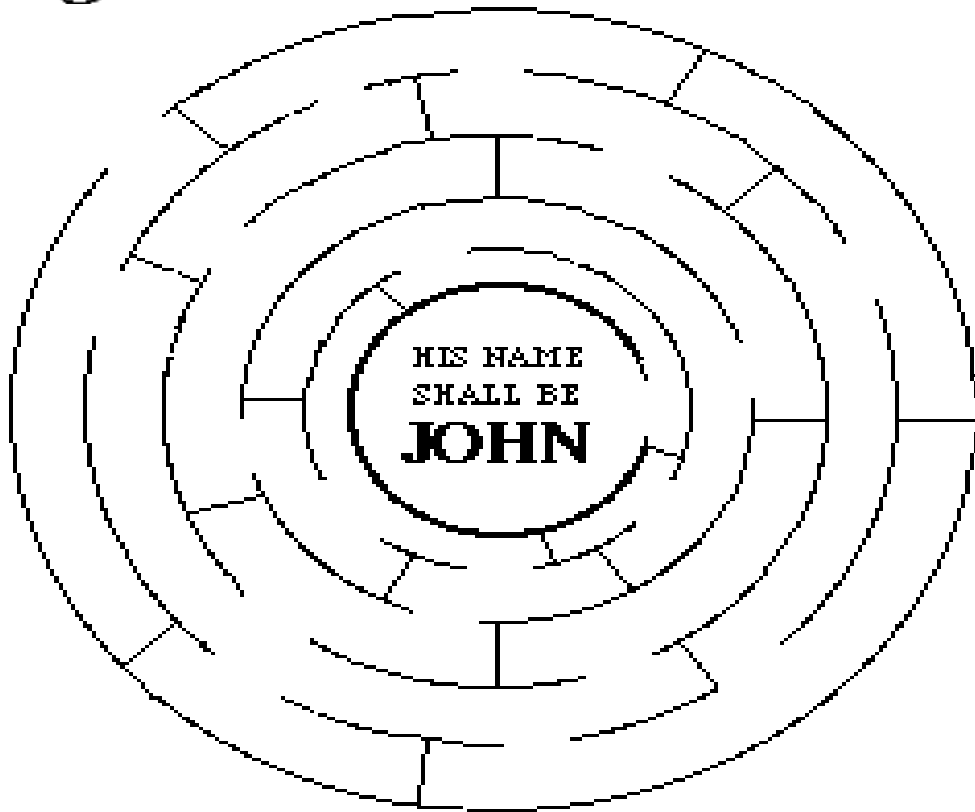
29th of Kiahk – Feast of the Nativity (Christmas)

Activity – Coloring and Memorization



“And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.” Luke 2:7

Activity - Maze



Bethlehem, there was born a Savior and suddenly a great number of heavenly angels appeared and said, "Glory to God in the Highest, Peace on earth, good will to men."

Afterwards, from the East, came three wise men following a great and brilliantly shining star in the sky. They came bearing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The gold was a symbol that the Lord Jesus Christ was the King of all kings. The frankincense was a symbol that He was the High Priest of all mankind. The myrrh was the symbol that the Lord Jesus Christ would face the pain and sorrow of the Holy Cross.

All this occurred on the very first Holy Nativity. The day our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ was born.

(The Holy Gospel of St Luke, chapters 1 and 2)



The Coptic Month of Kiahk or Nativity has the following weeks

Our Coptic Orthodox Church honors Saint Mary, the Theotokos many times during the year. One of the very awesome times where this occasion falls is Kiahk. Kiahk is the fourth month in the Coptic calendar. It is falls with the Nativity fast, and on the last day of Kiahk falls the celebration of the Feast of Nativity. Kiahk is called the "Marian Month" or "The Month of St. Mary." The Marian month is so important to the Coptic Church that it is associated with its own special tune.

This time of year is very precious because it gives the atmosphere of contemplation on the nativity of our Lord. This month reminds us of why the Lord chose St. Mary to be His mother, not any other women. Saint Mary's way of life, purity of heart, and humility allowed her to become the mother of our Savior. She is the luckiest person. During the month the church prepares us for the celebration of the Feast of the Nativity on the 29th of Kiahk by fasting.

In addition the Sunday gospels are all taken from the gospel of Saint Luke chapter 1 broken into four Sundays.

Week 1: The birth of John the Baptist is announced to Zacharias (Luke 1:1-25)

Week 2: Christ's Birth Announced to Mary (Luke 1:26-38)

Week 3: Mary Visits Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-56)

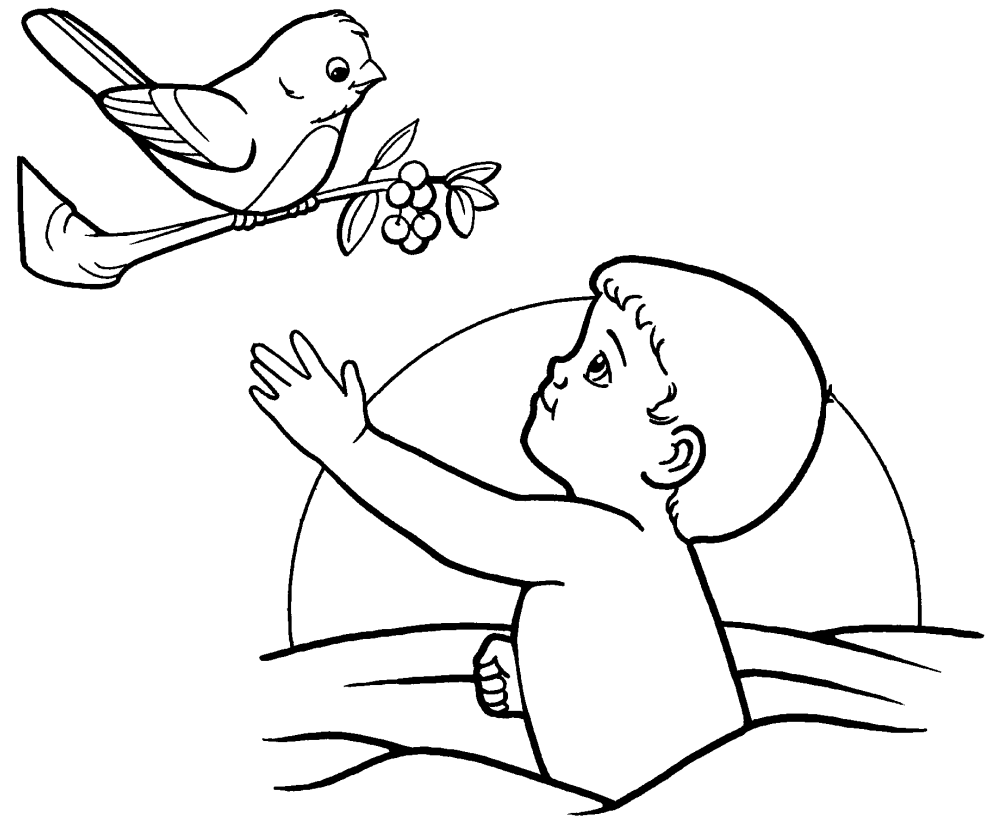
Week 4: Birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1:57-80)

29th of Kiahk: Feast of the Nativity (Christmas) (Matthew 2:1-12)



Week 4: Birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1:57-80)

Activity - Coloring and Memorization



“Now Elisabeth's full time came that she should be delivered; and she brought forth a son.”

LUKE 1:57

Week 3: Mary Visits Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-56)

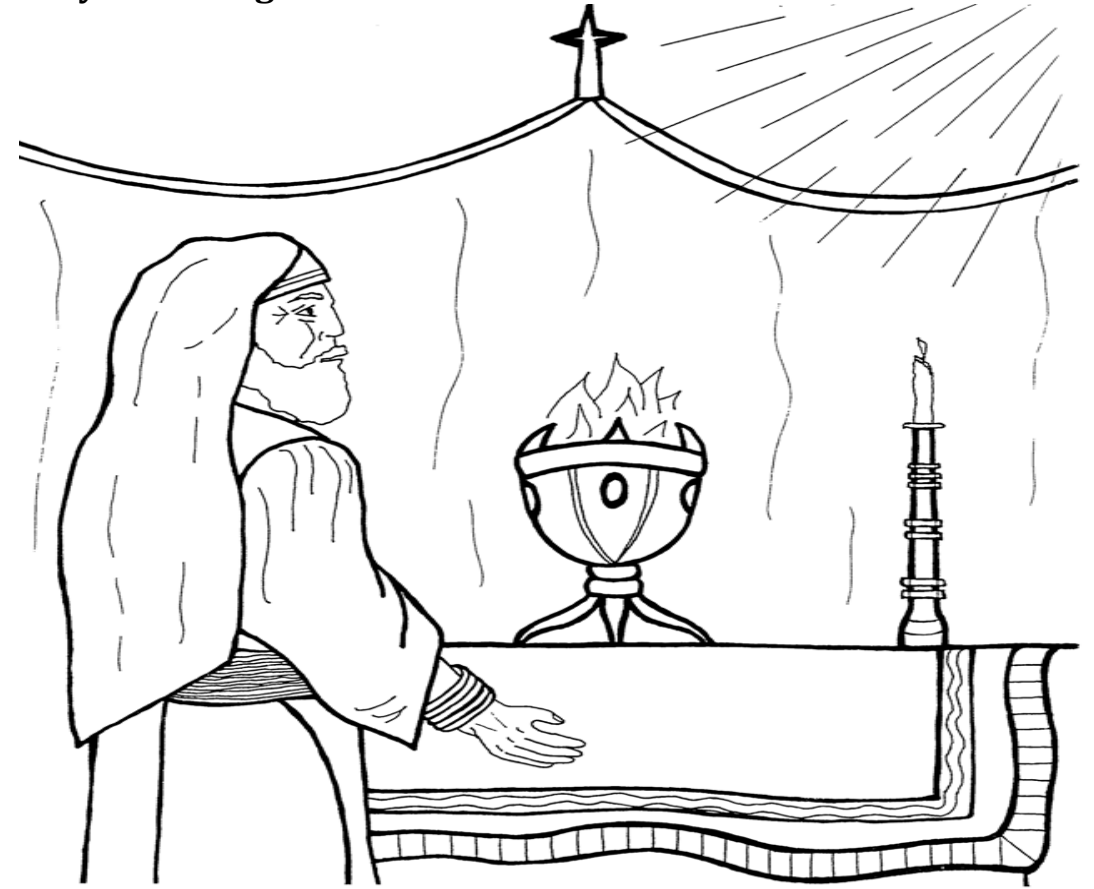
Activity - Coloring and Memorization



When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!" (Luke 1:41-42)

Week 1: The birth of John the Baptist is announced to Zacharias (Luke 1:1-25)

Activity - Coloring and Memorization



As Zacharias burns incense in the temple of the Lord, an angel of the Lord appears to him to tell him that he shall have a son.

LUKE 1:5-25

Week 2: Christ's Birth Announced to St. Mary (Luke 1:26-38)

Activity - Coloring and Memorization



"Gabriel is sent by God to give Mary a special message. She shall bring forth a son, and shall call His name JESUS." *Luke 1:26-38*

Activity - Maze

Begin at the mouth of Gabriel and find your way out of the maze to proclaim the Good News!

