

## Christmas Homily 2009

**“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel”**

This is a special and beautiful evening. It is a joyful night because we celebrate the birth of a baby, Jesus. He was born in small out of the way village called Bethlehem. He was the child of poor woman, Mary. He grew up in another village called Nazareth. He worked in a carpenter shop with Joseph, his foster father, until he was 30 years old. Then for 3 years he was a travelling preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never owned a house. He never had family of his own. He never went to a college. He never put his foot in a big city. He never traveled more than 200 miles from where he was born. He never did great things that usually accompany greatness. He had nothing to show for himself except his own person.

While he was still a young man, people began to turn against him. His friends ran away from him. He was turned over to the enemy. He went through a mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. When he was dead, he was laid in a borrowed grave.

19 centuries have gone by and he is the central figure of the human race for billions and billions of people on earth. All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, and all the governments that ever ruled, and the kings that ever reigned, have not affected the life of people upon this earth as has that one solitary life.

Yes, this one life is not really that solitary, if we allow Christ born on this day so long ago, to be reborn in our lives today. God was made real long ago. But God is still made real today, in my life, in your life, in the lives of everyone.

May we say a little prayer as we look around at one another in this church and in our neighborhoods and home: “May the Christ be born in you and me today...May the Christ be born in you and me today!” Amen.

**HAVE A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS!!!**