

Chapter 5: God Enters Time and Space

Out of love, God entered time and space to make us holy like Him.

Chapter Summary

Jesus was born during the reign of Caesar Augustus in a stable in the town of Bethlehem. He chose to be born at this specific time and place to reveal Himself and His mission to us. God's becoming man and taking on our flesh is called the Incarnation. In Jesus, the incarnate Word, God's divine nature is united with our human nature. God became man to sanctify and divinize us through sanctifying grace. He gives us sanctifying grace along with other graces in the seven sacraments. Each sacrament has a unique matter, form, and minister. Through the sacraments, we receive unique capacities to live as God's children.



The Sacraments: God's Gift to Us

In the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, we see Mary once again living with perfect justice and piety to God and others.

The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple

"When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord" (Luke 2:22).

Mary and Joseph were obedient to God's laws and brought Jesus according to His law to offer a sacrifice in the Temple (see Luke 2:22–24). They model that the greatest thing parents can do for their children is to raise them to give love and obey God in all things.

Like Mary and Joseph, parents do what is best for their children by bringing them to God to receive His grace in the sacraments. This includes attending Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation and regularly celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation. God wants to pour out His love and mercy through the sacraments; therefore, parents have a responsibility to ensure that their children are able to receive these abundant blessings.

Children can learn from this example as well. They, too, can become models for their families on how to live with justice. Children can know and understand God's laws, and oftentimes they more perfectly obey out of love than adults do. Children should charitably remind their parents of the importance of attending Mass each week and of going to Reconciliation regularly.

For more family faith formation resources, go to the parent portal.