

# Enrichment: Sacred Art

## Praying with Sacred Art: *The Nativity*, by Noël-Nicolas Coypel

Full-page image available on page 96 of the Student Text.

When we pray with this sacred art, we learn about the mystery of the Incarnation—when God became man to save us from sin and death. **Begin with the Sign of the Cross.**

### **What figures do you see in this painting?**

- We see the wondrous scene of the Birth of Jesus in a humble stable of Bethlehem.
- Jesus' Mother, Mary, and his foster father, Saint Joseph, are close to the newborn Jesus.
- We also see a host of angels hovering around Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. They are singing the praises of God for the gift of the Incarnation of God in Jesus.



*The Nativity,*  
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Look at the face of the newborn baby Jesus. **What does it tell us about who Jesus is?**

- The face of the newborn baby Jesus radiates a warm, bright light onto the scene.
- We are reminded that Jesus comes into the darkness of the world to bring the light of God's love and mercy to all humanity.

Notice what Mary and Joseph are doing in this scene.

- Mary, the Mother of Jesus and the Mother of God, holds Jesus tenderly with great love in her arms.
- Mary is our spiritual Mother. She loves and cares for us just as she loved and cared for her divine Son, Jesus.
- Joseph kneels before the newborn Jesus in humble adoration and thanksgiving to God for the gift of His divine Son. Joseph teaches us to respond to the gift of the Incarnation of God in Jesus with praise, adoration, and humble thanksgiving to God.
- The faces of both Mary and Joseph reflect the warm, bright light radiating from the newborn Jesus.

### **What can we learn from this Nativity scene?**

- As we reflect on the mystery of the Incarnation, we are invited to recognize that Jesus is the Light of the World, who comes to dispel the darkness of the world.

## Journal Reflection

**How does this Nativity scene help you better understand the mystery of the Incarnation?** Write your answer on the journal page. **Journal pages are available on the parent and student portals.**

Conclude by praying the Our Father.