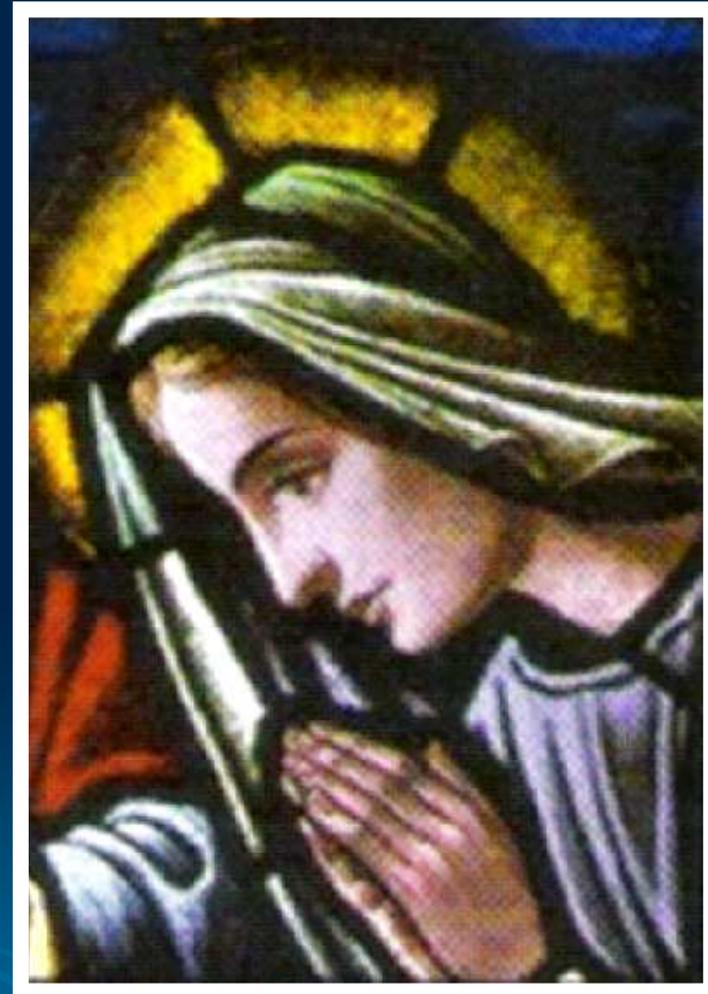


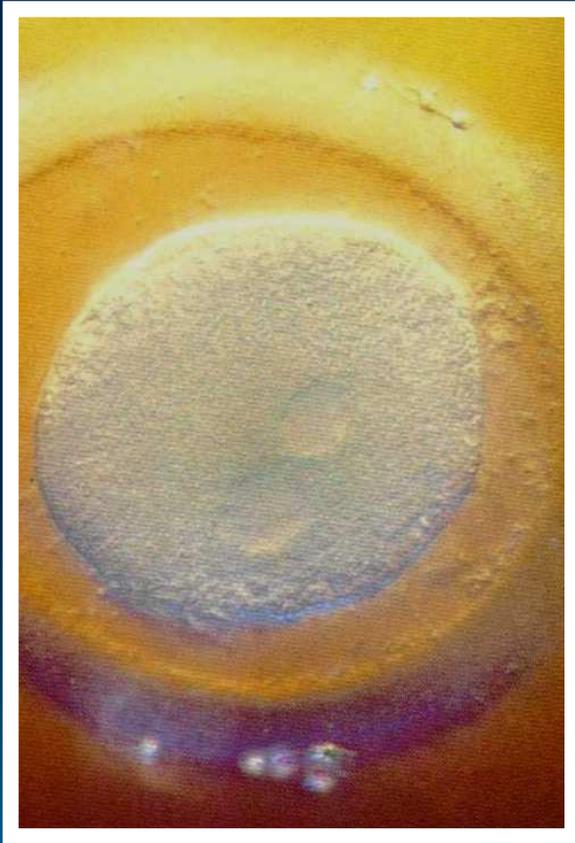
# A Gospel Reflection on the Beginning of Life



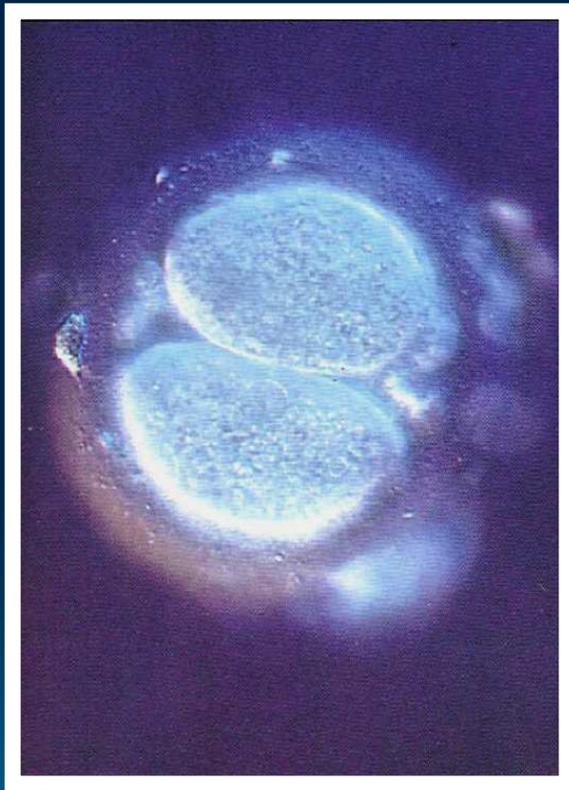
- Note: Fetal development as it applies to the Gospel is a general presentation of events in the womb and is meant for the purpose of reflection. The exact stage of Jesus' development would not be known for all passages of Scripture.

...the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph...the virgin's name was Mary...





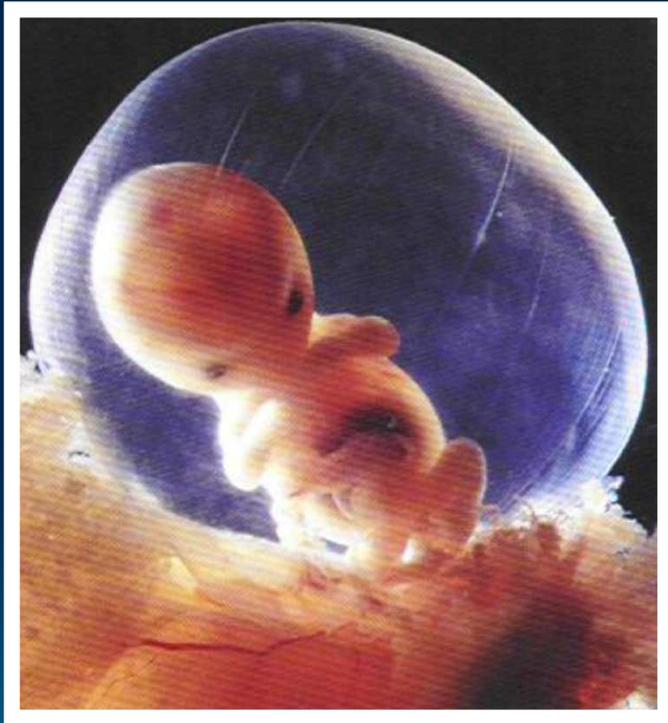
Gabriel said, "...the Lord is with you...you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call him Jesus." ...Mary said, "May it be done to me according to your word."



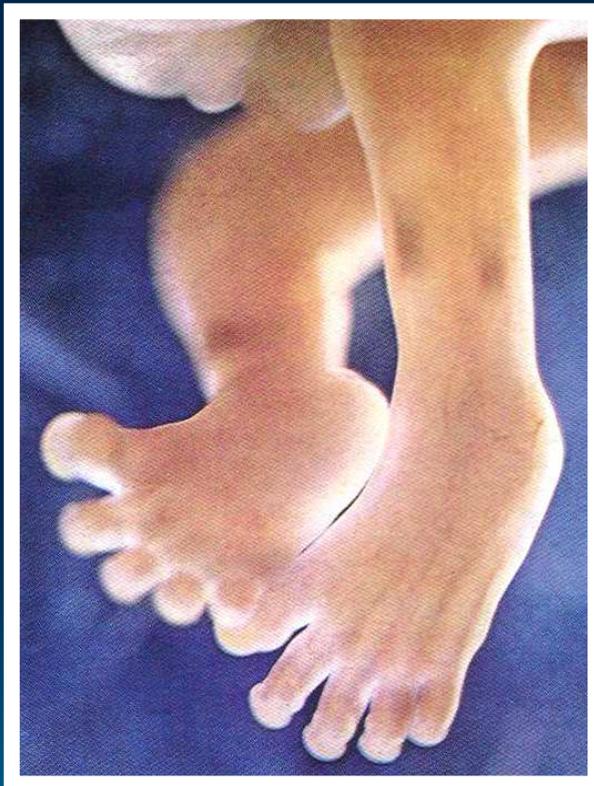
“...and the Word  
became flesh and  
made his dwelling  
among us.” Jn 1:4



Mary traveled to a town of Judah to visit her relative Elizabeth. She entered the house and greeted her. Elizabeth said, "Most blessed are you among women..."

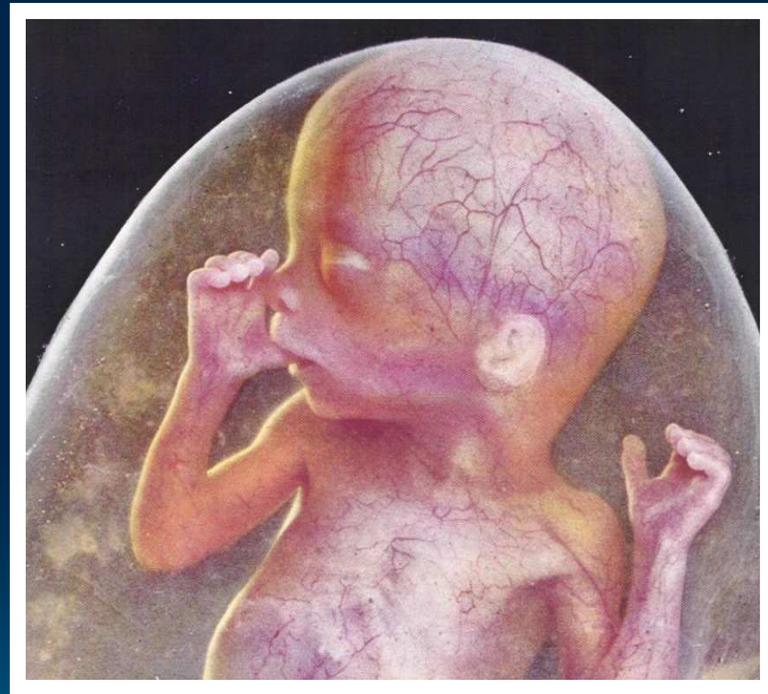


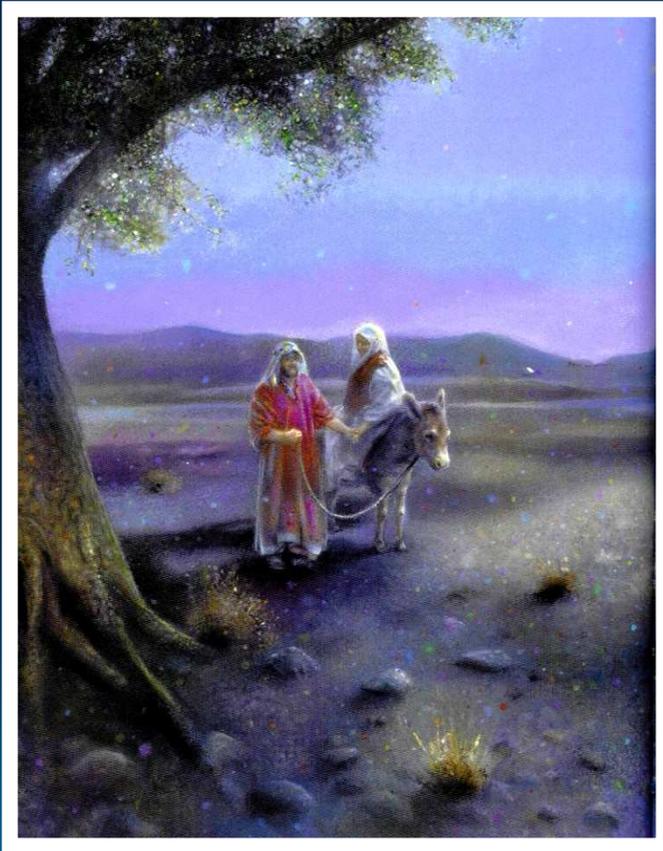
...and blessed is the  
fruit of your womb...”



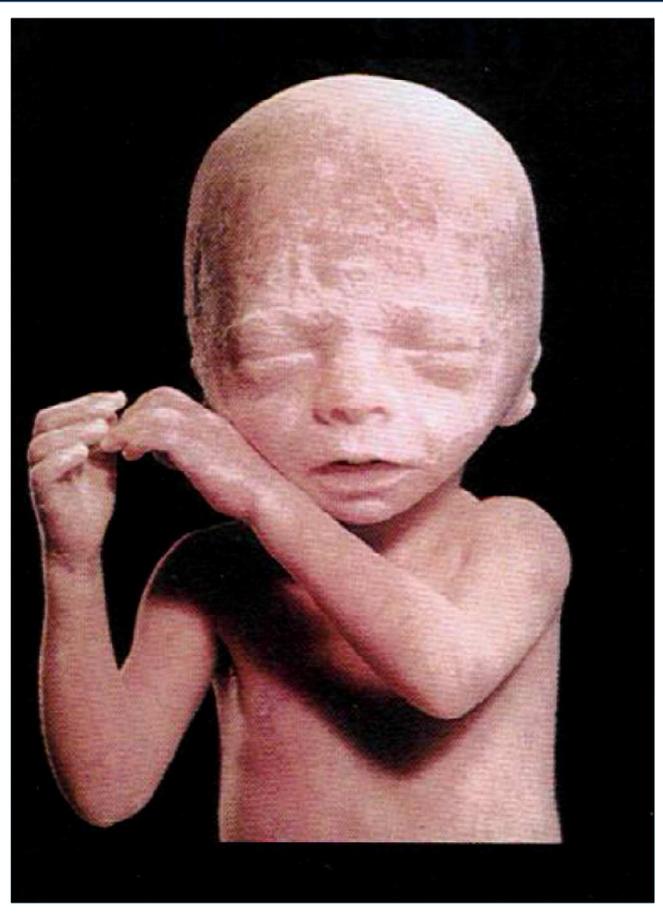
Mary remained with Elizabeth about three months...

...and then returned  
to her home.

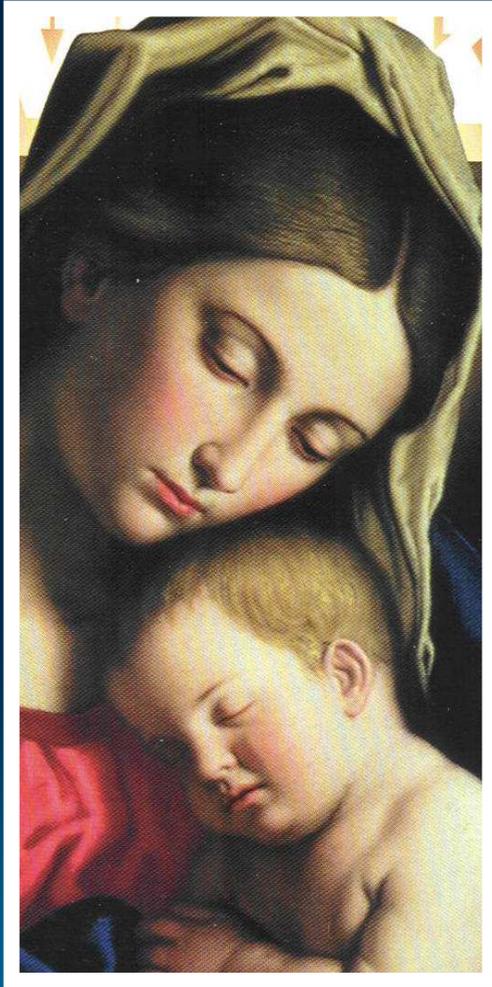




Joseph went up from Galilee to the city of Bethlehem to be enrolled with Mary...who was with child.



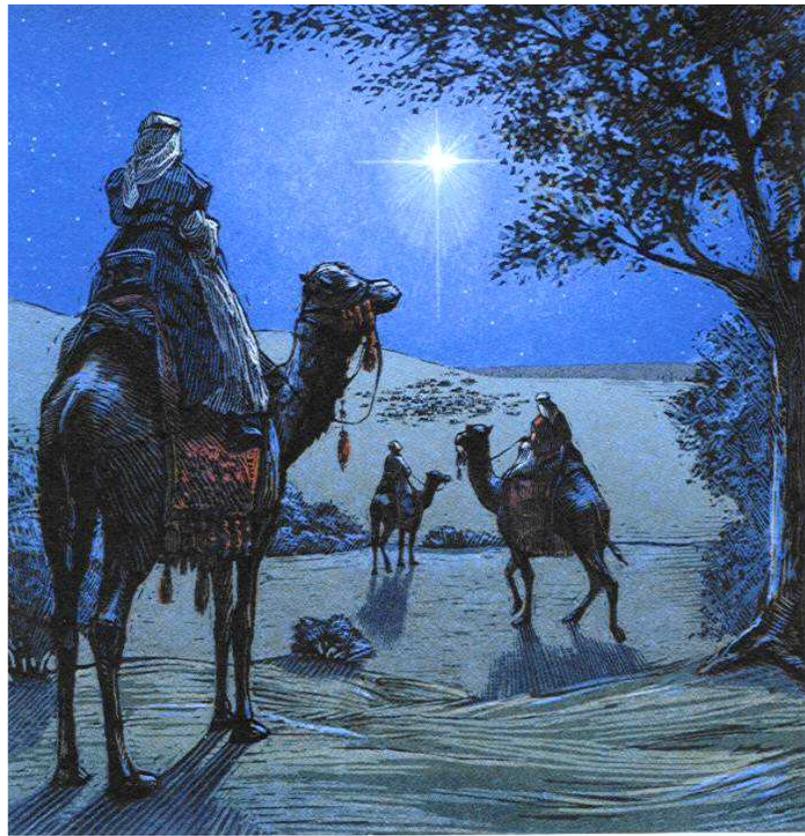
While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son.



She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.



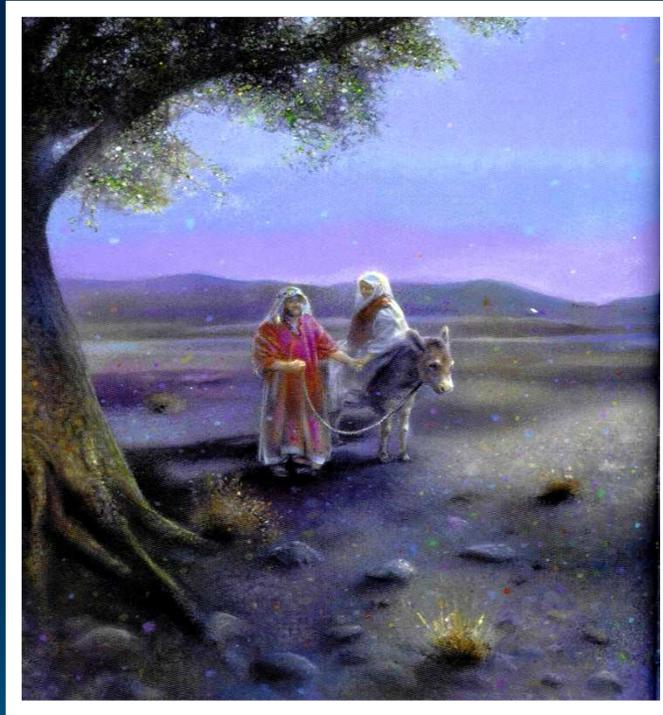
The angel of the Lord appeared to shepherds and said, "I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people..."



... a savior has been  
born for you who is  
Messiah and Lord.”

- Jesus entered into our humanity through the womb of Mary. All human life is to be respected from the very beginning, conception, to its natural end.
- Human beings in their earliest stages are the most innocent and defenseless among us; they deserve our care and protection.
- Jesus said, “Whatever you do to the least of my brothers, you do to me.” Mt. 25:40

# A Blessed Christmas



# Credits

## Fetal Photography:

Lennart Nilsson

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Kathy Lawrence

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