

In today's Gospel, Matthew 1:1-25, we hear the book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ. It begins with Abraham the father of Isaac continuing until Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, who Jesus was born, and called the Messiah, totaling fourteen generations. The gospel then continues on how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. The blessed Virgin was betrothed to Joseph, and she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Joseph was told in a dream to not fear taking her as a wife, because she would bear a son to be called Emmanuel, which means "God with us."

Every year on this the Sunday before the Nativity we read the first 25 verses of the Gospel of Matthew in order to get to know more of who Jesus Christ is, about His genealogy, about His ancestors. Both Evangelists Luke and Matthew include this long list in their Gospels. Saint Matthew's genealogy list has an emphasis of Jesus Christ as the Son of David and the Son of Abraham. He is their descendant focusing on His humanity. Saint Luke's genealogy goes back even further to Adam, but emphasizes on the divine origin of Christ Jesus ending with, "Jesus the Son of Adam and the Son of God."

Both these genealogies are essential for our understating of the incarnation. They complement one another because Jesus is the Son of God and the Son of David; He is fully human and divine. Jesus Christ is the true revelation of God to us and embodies the fullness of our humanity, and the fullness of His divinity.

Dearest ones, why did Jesus Christ come incarnate after generations and generations? Why did He join us in our humanity? This was done out of the love God has for His creation! He came incarnate so that He could destroy death by death and grant us eternal life! This is the reason for the Nativity Season—that of love! Let us remember this and offer to others love to which we have been granted unconditionally. Let us love our families, our neighbors, our enemies, the sick, the suffering, and all in the world; remembering for He so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son, amen.