

the shepherds. They were terrified! But the angel told them not to be afraid because it had brought them joyous news of the birth of the promised Savior, Christ the Lord! It told them the baby could be found in a manger in the City of David, which was another way of saying Bethlehem. Then the angel was surrounded by many bright, singing angels who praised God. When the singing stopped and the sky returned to darkness, the shepherds decided to go to Bethlehem and find the baby. The shepherds and sheep are shown on the right side of the icon in the middle. In the bottom right corner of the icon is baby Jesus being washed by two ladies who helped with the birth. In the bottom left corner of the icon is Joseph, Mary's husband, who is pondering and thinking about this strange and marvelous birth. Joseph also has a golden halo around his head, as do all the Holy Angels. Halos identify those who are sacred.

This icon would make an interesting movie because there are so many characters from so many different places doing many different movements and talking about so many things. For more details, please read in your Bible the passages mentioned in the first paragraph of this lesson. The nativity, or birth of Christ is a glorious feast day which is meant to bring us great joy to be celebrated in church and in our homes.

God's peace, Christ is born!

With love,

Your Religious Education Team