

The Genealogy of Jesus

Readings: Rom 1:1-12 and Mt 1:1-17

Matthew Wants To Emphasize “Fourteen”

“Thus the total number of generations from Abraham to David is fourteen generations from the Babylonian exile to the Christ, fourteen generations.” Matthew 1:17

Are Matthew’s three sets of 14 generations significant?

Yes, apparently so. Matthew seems to have a plan. Did Matthew just discover this numerical symmetry in Jesus’ ancestry? If so, he got it wrong. The genealogy in 1

Chronicles 1-3 contains the same 14 names from Abraham to David, but includes 18 ancestors between David and the exile.

Matthew’s third set has been miscounted. His list puts Jesus as the 13th generation from the exile. This deviates from Luke’s genealogy, which has 22 in that group (Lk 3:23-27).

Why accentuate the number 14? One theory that may explain it is gematria, which blends words with numbers. The Hebrew numerical system employs letters as numbers (similar to the Roman system, I=1, V=5, X=10, etc.). Any Hebrew word also has a numerical value, based on the sum of its letters.

Matthew most likely associated 14 with dvd, or DVD D=4 and V=6; 4+6+4=14). As vowels were not written until later, DVD was how one wrote “David.” Matthew’s emphasis on 14—14—14 would seem to be signaling loudly and clearly to his readers DAVID—DAVID—DAVID!

Old Testament prophecies that anticipated the coming of a Messiah envisioned him as a type of “new David.” David’s persona was so inextricably linked to the Messiah that his name eventually became synonymous with it (Jet 30:9; Ez 34:23-24; 37:24-25; Hos 3:5). By emphasizing “14,” Matthew appears to be announcing to his readers that Jesus is the “new David”—i.e., the Messiah.

Lower Your 2018 Income Tax Bill with End of Year Donation

One way to lower your income tax bill for this year is to make charitable contributions, which can be deducted from your income if you are planning to itemize your deductions when you file your 2018 income tax. Gifts you make to charities, such as **Our Lady of Lebanon Church**, are tax deductible. But in order for you to claim the deduction on your tax return for 2018, you must make the gift this year. That is important to keep in mind if you are planning on making a year-end gift. For example, if you are going to give money using a check, be sure the date on the check is on or before December 31st. Also, be sure to give the check to the church on or before that date. If your gift is \$250 or more, and you plan to claim the gift as a deduction on your tax return, the IRS requires that you have a letter or receipt from the church that received the gift. By the end of January, 2019 all donors –who donated \$250 or more– will receive a statement from **Our Lady of Lebanon Church**, stating their names and the amount of gift received –through checks or weekly offering envelopes– from January 1st, 2018, until December 31st, 2018. It is wise to keep the church statement with your tax records, in case the IRS questions your itemized deductions.

For Your Information

Dear Parishioners and friends,

Q.: Do you know how much it costs to run a church?

A.: O Father, everything is free for the church. What are you talking about?

My friends, there is nothing free in our days. The church is like any other business or home. You pay for everything no matter if it is a church or not. Imagine how much we pay approximately on a monthly basis: \$700 assessment for the Diocese, \$1000 building insurance, \$1500 utilities, \$270 phone and internet, \$200 elevator, \$100 fire service, health insurance and retirement \$1150, pastor salary \$2300, car expenses, gas and conventions and retreats \$500, postage and office supplies \$100. Recently fixing the boiler cost us \$4200, the ice machine \$2559 and other property maintenance I could not count. All in all we are doing well and I do not spend a penny unless it is a church bill. Other churches are surviving on endowment funds where people left the church on their will. I ask you to consider the church as your second home and be generous in the collection because if we don’t help ourselves, the diocese will close the church.

–Msgr Bakhos

Christmas Poinsettias in Memory of:

A bouquet of yellow roses will decorate the altar of the Blessed Mother in Memory of Helen Fielding by her husband Donald Fielding, Florida.

These Poinsettias were donated in Memory of:

- ✿ *Louis N. & Louis H. Khourey, Sr. & Gladys Howard by Lou and Charlotte Khourey and Family*
- ✿ *In honor of Tom & Denise Ferris and in Memory of Mary K. Ferris*
- ✿ *LaVerne Thomas and Evelyn Hall by Dr Adel, Diane, Andreah & Justin Frenn*
- ✿ *Elias & Siham Frenn by Dr Adel, Diane, Andreah & Justin Frenn*
- ✿ *The Rohana and Rahi Families by Alicia Peklinsky*
- ✿ *Don & Emily Vince and Patricia Gompers by Matt & Vicki Gompers*
- ✿ *Bob Sengewalt by the Sengewalt Family*
- ✿ *For a "Special Intention" by A Friend*
- ✿ *Bill and Mary Daniel by Rebecca & Michael DiFabrizio*
- ✿ *Suzanne Linton by husband Mike*
- ✿ *Frances & Joseph Linton by sons Steve & Mike*
- ✿ *The deceased of our parish by Steve & Mike Linton*
- ✿ *Msgr. Bakhos' parents Adib & Sadie, his sister Mona & his brother Nadim by Steve & Mike Linton*
- ✿ *Rick Frazier by his wife Luane*
- ✿ *The Saseen and Schlog Families by M.F.Saseen and sons*
- ✿ *The Habdo and Dougherty Families by Carol & Bill Dougherty*
- ✿ *Ralph and Mary J. Shipley and Robby Hunter by Thomasina Geimer*
- ✿ *In honor of Dr. Alkhouri and his Family*
- ✿ *Shirley Elias Nickerson and Nicholas & Amelia Elias, aunts: Mary, Jean, Helen, Margaret, Rosie & Madeline by their Family Tammy, Robbie, Don, Lori, Emma & Elijah*
- ✿ *Danny & Milly Manners by their daughter Nini Miller*
- ✿ *Nimon and Miriam Joseph Family by the Weisner and Joseph Families*
- ✿ *Deceased of the Thomas Moses, Kenneth DeMuth and Stephen Rushkevich by Sandra DeMuth*
- ✿ *Abdo & Dorothy Saseen by Jim & Pat Saseen Connell*
- ✿ *Rachel Nader Farrah by Emilies Kawas*
- ✿ *Mitchell Farrah by Emilies Kawas*
- ✿ *Joseph Kawas by Emilies Kawas*
- ✿ *The Shiben and McFarland Families by John & Dee Shiben*

Divine Liturgy Schedule

This Weekend, Dec. 22-23: Genealogy of Jesus

Saturday December 22:

at 3:30 p.m.: Christmas Novena

at 4:00 p.m.: Mass

- ✠ Kaiser & Jeannette Fadoul
- ✠ Bob Saseen by his wife Fran
- ✠ Special Intention

Sunday, December 23:

at 10:00 a.m.: Christmas Novena

at 10:30 a.m.: Mass

- ✠ Mother of Jocelyn Chahine (Mahasen Kazour) by Msgr Bakhos
- ✠ Sue, Joe and Frances Linton by Msgr Bakhos

Christmas Mass Schedule

Monday, December 24:4:00 p.m.: **Christmas Children Mass** (Choir will sing)

✠ Steve & Margaret Schlog and Deceased of the Saseen Family by Fran Saseen

10:00 p.m.: **Christmas Midnight Mass** (Choir will sing)

✠ Nicolas & Nimnoom Ghafari by the Ghafari Family in Detroit (MI)

✠ Joseph Linton (7th Anniversary) by his sons Steve and Mike**Tuesday, December 25: (Christmas is a Day of Obligation)**10:30 a.m.: **Christmas Day Morning Mass** (No Choir)

✠ Helen Fielding by her husband Don Fielding (FL) & his special intentions

✠ Mother of Jocelyn Chahine (Mahasen Kazour) by Lou & Charlotte Khourey

Wednesday, December 26 at 12:05 p.m.: (Praises to the Blessed Mother)

✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her Will

✠ Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, and her son Mark by her last will

Thursday, December 27 at 12:05 p.m.: (Martyrdom of Saint Stephen)

✠ Intentions of Luke Lenz (Birthday) by Dalton Haas

Friday, December 28: No Mass. Pastor Day off***Next Weekend, Dec. 29-30: Finding Jesus in the Temple*****Saturday December 29 at 4:00 p.m.:**

✠ Sue Brubach by D.J. Knittel

✠ Bob Sengewalt by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt

‡ Special Intention

Sunday, December 30 at 10:30 a.m.:

✠ Intentions of Msgr Bakhos' Benefactors by Msgr Bakhos

✠ Sue, Joe and Frances Linton by Msgr Bakhos

New Year Mass Schedule**Monday, December 31st:**4:00 p.m.: **New Year's Eve Mass** (No Midnight Mass)

✠ Intentions of Msgr Bakhos' Benefactors by Msgr Bakhos

‡ Good health & speedy recovery of all our Parishioners by Msgr Bakhos

Tuesday, January 1, 2019: (New Year is a Day of Obligation)10:30 a.m.: **New Year's Day Morning Mass**

✠ Georgette Joseph by Vickie Joseph

Calendar of Parish Events

Christmas Basket Drawing, Dec. 23rd.	<i>The Christmas Basket Drawing will be held on Sunday, December 23rd.</i>
Msgr. Bakhos 27th Anniversary <i>Sunday, Dec 23rd</i>	On Sunday December 23, the Women's Society invites you to join them following Mass to celebrate Msgr. Bakhos 27 th Anniversary to the Priesthood. Cake will be served to celebrate the occasion.

Note: There will be no OLOL Women's Society Meeting in December. Please attend the January 27th meeting so that we can discuss and plan upcoming events for the new year.

Birthdays' Wishes in the Coming Month:

December 24: Paula Moses Neavin

December 25: Shelly Hancher
 December 27: Luke Lenz, Jay Murad
 December 29: Jeff Bentz
 January 1: Nancy Joseph
 January 3: Rosemary Coury
 January 6: Gina Stees
 January 7: Jacob Fadoul Wilson
 January 10: Marjorie John, Mary Petros
 January 11: Jennifer Klein
 January 17: George Weisner
 January 22: Nick Bedway
 January 23: Dale Seidler Jr., Lisa Breiding

Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List

(Note: Please call Msgr. Bakhos if you need your name added to our Prayer List. HIPPA regulations)
 Diane Palotay, Robert A. Nader, (uncle of Lou Khourey), Joe Simon, Jim McGlumphy, Patty Fahey, Phil Geimer, Bill Dougherty, John Frazier (son of Luane Frazier), Austin Strawn (grandson of Rex Strawn), Debbie Crumpler (sister of Nini Miller), Shirley & Jim George, Justin Frenn, Sandra Dusick, John Shibben, Jim Thomas (father of Diane Frenn), Mike O’Kane (brother-in-law of Nikki Popovich)

<i>Your Church Support Last Week</i>	
\$2,642.00	Sunday Collection
109.00	Cookies
108.00	mamool molds
2.00	Coffee Hour
140.00	Christmas Dinner Dance
30.00	Donation to church
125.00	Christmas Poinsettias
770.00	Utilities
89.00	Candles
\$4,015.00	Total Deposits: <i>May God reward you abundantly for supporting your spiritual home!</i> The Finance Committee: Lou Khourey, Mary Stees, Linda Duffy & Mike Linton

What’s New?

Available items for Sale at the Church:

--Burghol #1 and #2 wrapped in 2lb bags.
 --There are only three 4-shape Mamool Mold like those used in the kitchen. Cost \$15.00 each.
 Please see Mike Linton or one of the Ladies of our church to purchase some.



Christmas Story

My husband and I had been happily (most of the time) married for five years but hadn’t been blessed with a baby. I decided to do some serious praying and promised God that if He would give us a child, I would be a perfect mother, love it with all my heart and raise it with His Word as my guide. God answered my prayers and blessed us with a son. The next year God blessed us with another son. The following year, He blessed us with yet another son. The year after that we were blessed with a daughter. My husband thought we’d been blessed right into poverty. We now had four children, and the oldest was only four years old. I learned never to ask God for anything unless I meant it. As a priest once told me, “If you pray for rain, make sure you carry an umbrella.”

I began reading a few verses of the Bible to the children each day as they lay in their cribs. I was off to a good start. God had entrusted me with four children and I didn't want to disappoint Him. I tried to be patient the day the children smashed two dozen eggs on the kitchen floor searching for baby chicks. I tried to be understanding when they started a hotel for homeless frogs in the spare bedroom, although took me nearly two hours to catch all twenty-three frogs. When my daughter poured ketchup all over herself and rolled up in a blanket to see how it felt to be a hot dog, I tried to see the humor rather than the mess. In spite of changing over twenty-five thousand diapers, never eating a hot meal and never sleeping for more than thirty minutes at a time, I still thank God daily for my children. While I couldn't keep my promise to be a perfect mother -I didn't even come close- I did keep my promise to raise them in the Word of God. I knew I was missing the mark just a little when I told my daughter we were going to church to worship God, and she wanted to bring a bar of soap along to "wash up" Jesus, too. Something was lost in the translation when I explained that God gave us everlasting life, and my son thought it was generous of God to give us His "Last wife." My proudest moment came during the children's Christmas pageant. My daughter was playing Mary, two of my sons were shepherds and my youngest son was a wise man. This was their moment to shine. My five-year-old shepherd had practiced his line, "We found the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes." But he was nervous and said, "The baby was wrapped in wrinkled clothes." My four-year-old "Mary" said, "That's not wrinkled clothes, silly. That's dirty, rotten clothes." A wrestling match broke out between Mary and the shepherd and was stopped by an angel, who bent her halo and lost her left wing. I slouched a little lower in my seat when Mary dropped the doll representing baby Jesus, and it bounced down the aisle crying. "Mama-Mama." Mary grabbed the doll, wrapped it back up and held it tightly as the wise men arrived.

My other son stepped forward wearing a bathrobe and a paper crown, knelt at the manger and announced, "We are the Three Wise Men, and we are bringing gifts of gold, common sense, and fur." The congregation dissolved into laughter, and the pageant got a standing ovation. "I've never enjoyed a Christmas program as much this one," the priest laughed, wiping tears from his eyes. "For the rest of my life, I'll never hear the Christmas story without thinking of "gold, common sense, and fur." "My children are my pride and my joy and my greatest blessing," I said as I dug through my purse looking for an aspirin. My wish is that you too will be blessed with gold, common sense, and fur this Christmas season. HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS!

A Time to Laugh (390)

The love of an Italian wife

An elderly Italian man lay dying in his bed. While suffering the agonies of impending death, he suddenly smelled the aroma of his favorite Italian anisette sprinkle cookies wafting up the stairs. Gathering his remaining strength, he lifted himself from the bed. Leaning against the wall, he slowly made his way out of the bedroom, and with even greater effort, gripping the railing with both hands, he crawled downstairs. With labored breath, he leaned against the doorframe, gazing into the kitchen. Where if not for death's agony, he would have thought himself already in heaven, for there, spread out upon waxed paper on the kitchen table were literally hundreds of his favorite anisette sprinkled cookies. Was it heaven? Or was it one final act of heroic love from his devoted Italian wife of sixty years, seeing to it that he left this world a happy man? Mustering one great final effort, he threw himself towards the table, landing on his knees in a crumpled posture. His parched lips parted, the wondrous taste of the cookie was already in his mouth, seemingly bringing him back to life. The aged and withered hand trembled on its way to a cookie at the edge of the table, when it was suddenly smacked with a spatula by his wife.

"Back off!" she said, "They're for the funeral."

Rules of hunting

For years, Emily had begged Tom to take her hunting. But he kept putting it off. He took his hunting seriously and enjoyed his time alone in the woods. But finally he gave in to his wife's pleading.

He took her to one of his favorite spots where deer were usually plentiful and instructed her on the rules of hunting. He set her up where she could get a good clear shot at any deer that came along. Then he trudged on, but before he could get into position he heard two shots.

“Oh no!” he thought. “If she gets a deer before me, I’ll never live this down.” Then he heard his wife screaming, “Now, step back. That’s my deer!” As he raced through the woods he could see Emily aiming her rifle at a man whose hands were raised above his head. She yelled again, “I said, step away! That’s my deer!” As Tom arrived at the scene the man yelled, “Okay. Lady. You can have your deer. Just give me a minute and let me get my saddle off of it.”

Burglary

A man went to the Police Station wishing to speak with the burglar who had broken into his house the night before.

"You'll get your chance in court." said the Desk Sergeant.

“No, No, No!” said the man.

“I want to know how he got into the house without waking my wife. I’ve been trying to do that for years!”

Old Fashioned Customer Service

During a shopping trip to a department store, I was looking around for a salesperson so I could pay for my purchase. Finally I ran into a woman wearing the store's ID tag. "Excuse me," I said. "I'm trying to locate a cashier."

"I can't help you," she briskly replied, barely slowing down. "I work in customer service."

And she walked away.