

**The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John
Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ,
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THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE – FAITH



As we draw nearer to the birth of Jesus, we begin to see just how specific God was about giving His people “directions” to the birth of the Messiah. In Micah 5, we read a prophecy that occurred 735 years before the birth of Christ and yet it’s as specific as if it were spoken right before.

Micah tells us several things. He tells us where the Messiah will be born, that He will come from a tribe of Judah, He will rule in Israel, Jesus is eternal and divine but will rule on earth and He will be a shepherd to His people.

Bethlehem was the smallest clan of Judah. It is a very insignificant town just outside of Jerusalem. Yet God did not choose Jerusalem for the birthplace of the Messiah. God loved the world so much that He chose, a tiny insignificant town as the location for the birth of the one who literally changed the world. This is the first of many reminders that God loves even the insignificant of the world, and in fact, demonstrates this several times in the weeks to come leading up to the Messiah’s birth.

Attentively at your service in our Lord.

Father John Carlos