**Christmas Program 2011 - Miracles**

**Narrator 1:** Welcome to our Christmas program! Thank you for joining us. What is a Miracle? A miracle is defined as a surprising and welcome event that is not explained by natural or scientific laws and is considered to be divine. This year we will take a look at miracles, both past and present.

***Scene 1:, 4 teenagers sitting in 4 chairs studying together. Teenagers rustle papers and pass them around.***

**Teen 1:**  I’ll be so glad when these final exams are over. What are you guys doing for the break?

**Teen 2:** I’m planning to visit my cousins and to catch up on some reading.

**Teen 3:** Stavros and I (turning to look at Stavros ) are going to All Saints Summer Camp in Arizona. I can’t wait!

**Teen 1:**  Oh, that sounds great! I love going to Church Camp.

**Teen 3:** Yes, I always feel closer to God when I come back from Camp.

**Stavros:** Actually, I haven’t felt close to God for a long time. In fact, I don’t think I even believe in him anymore.

**Teen 2**  Oh, that’s terrible, Stavros! Please talk to the priests at the Camp. I know they can help you.

**Stavros:**  (shaking his head): No, I don’t think so. It would take a miracle!

***(All teens exit)***

**Scene 2: The Wedding at Cana**

**Guest 1:** This is the 2nd wedding in Cana I have attended this year!

**Guest 2:** There are many guests here. I see Mary and her son, Jesus over there.

**Guest 3:** With so many people, I hope there will be enough food and wine for everyone.

*(Guest 1 and Guest 2 walk off to the side; servants 1 and 2 approach)*

**Servant 1** (to the other servant): Who was that woman and her son? He asked us to bring 6 waterpots and fill them with water. Then He just asked us to draw some water out of one of the pots.

**Servant 2:** Yes, let us take this cup to the master of the feasts as the man requested.

*(The servants walk over to the Master of the Feasts and hand him the cup. He sips from the cup. He looks surprised and pleased)*

**Master of the Feast:** Bridegroom – come here! *(Motions to Bridegroom and he approaches).* I must tell you that most people set out the good wine first and when everyone has drunk a lot then the host brings out the inferior wine. You have saved the good wine for now!

**Bridegroom:**  *(looks and gestures in a confused manner)* What miracle has happened here today!?

*(everyone exits)*

**Scene 3: The Feeding of the 5000**

**Follower 1:**Sarah, look at all the people here with us! They are all trying to find out more about this man they call Jesus.

**Follower 2:** Is this man a prophet? Some say he is the son of God. I hear he can perform miracles.

**Follower 3:** Yes. I heard that there was a man who was paralyzed and Jesus told him to rise, take up his bed and walk. The paralytic man was healed.

**Follower 4:** (approaches the group) The man called Jesus has been speaking to us about the kingdom of God and healing the sick. I have heard and seen many amazing things here today.

**Child:** *(tugging at Follower 3’s robe)* I’m hungry, when are we going to eat?

**Follower 3:** I am not sure when we will have food. We must go into the village to eat.

**Child:** *(tugging at robe)* I’m hungry, when are we going to eat?

**Follower 4:**  Look! Over there! Some of Jesus’ disciples have baskets and are distributing food.

**Follower 3:** There must be thousands to feed! By the time the baskets reach us, there will be no food left.

**Disciple:** *(approaches):* Here are some loaves of bread and some fish for your family.

**Child:** (holding up a loaf of bread) : It’s a Miracle!

*(all exit)*

**Scene 4: The Annunciation**

**Narrator 3** We celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation, one of the greatest miracles of all, on March 25th. As we know from the Gospel of Luke, in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary.

**Narrator 2:** The Archangel Gabriel announced to Mary, “Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you: blessed are you among women. Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call his name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest. And of His kingdom there will be no end.”

**Narrator 1** Mary asked “How can this be, since I have no husband?” The Archangel Gabriel told Mary, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will over-shadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. For with God, nothing will be impossible.

**Scene 5: The Nativity – Shepards in the Fields**

**Shepherd 1:**(shivering)It’s rather cold out here in the fields tonight.

**Shepherd 2:** I’m glad the flock is settled. (yawning) I don’t want to have to chase sheep tonight.

**Shepherd 1:** Yes, let’s try to get some rest.

 ***(Angel approaches and the shepherds look afraid.)***

**Shepherd 2:** I am blinded by this bright light from above.

**Angel:**  Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

 ***(A group of angels enter the stage.)***

**Angels:**  Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!

**Shepherd 2**: Let us go to Bethlehem and see what miracle God has made known to us.

**Shepherd 4:** Yes! Let’s hurry! *(Shepherds exit quickly)*

***Scene 6: (Teen 1 and 2 are seated on stage then Teen 3 and Stavros approach. Teen 3 is holding a piece of paper with a photograph of an icon of a saint.***

**Teen 1:** Welcome back from Camp!

**Teen 2** How did it go?

**Teen 3:** You would not believe it! On the second night of camp, from just a picture of an icon printed from the internet, like this one *(showing it to the other teens and to the audience)*, that was tacked to a wall in one of the dorms, the image of the saint began to weep myrrh! The holy oil was dripping down the wall.

**Stavros:**  But that’s not the end of the story! The campers had also made craft projects of paper icons taped to pieces of wood. After their icons had been blessed during a service and they were carrying them back to their bunks, some of them noticed that their own icons started weeping as well.

**Teen 1:** That’s amazing! I have heard of the miracle of weeping icons before, but I thought that only happened in the old days to “real” icons made of wood, you know, the original icon that was painted, not a picture of an icon that was taken from the internet!

**Teen 2**  And, doesn’t that kind of thing only happen around truly holy people, those who have been fasting, praying and showing great reverence for God by their manner of living –

**Stavros:**  And not someone like me who had done everything they could to forget about God? Good point. But our priest told us that when it comes to God’s grace, there really are no rules.

**Teen 3:**  It sounds like you have come back a different person.

**Stavros:** Yes, and maybe that is the real miracle!

*(The teens all leave the stage, and the kids holding the letters of “MIRACLES” come on the stage.*

M is for Mary, the mother of Jesus

I is for Illumination, God shows us the light

R is for Revelation

A is for Angels, the messengers God

C is for Christ, our Savior

L is for the Love we have to share

E is for Elation, the way we feel when we have done good and helped others

S is for the Salvation we have through Jesus Christ

***(Children remain on stage, narrators join them)***

**Narrator 4:** Thank you for letting us share the miracles of our Lord with you. The miracle of the weeping icons actually happened a few years ago at All Saints pan Orthodox Summer Camp and was documented in Fall 2011 issue of Praxis magazine by Fr. Allan Boyd.

**Narrator 5:** Miracles happen every day. We challenge you to reach out to your neighbors, friends, parishioners, and to those in need and make a difference in their lives.

**Narrator 2:** Yes, be a part of some small miracle in the lives of others. Please join us in singing Joy to the World.

*(All children join those on stage and sing)*