



husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord

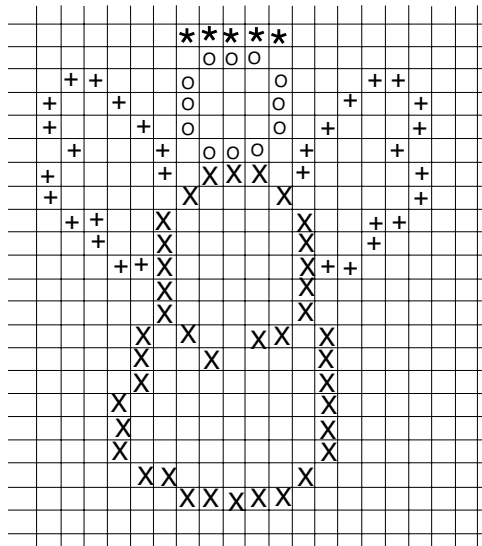
Christmas Cross Stitch Patterns

was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the holy Spirit. Joseph her

Several years ago, we began to restore Advent in our home. In addition to following the Jesse Tree readings and lighting an Advent wreath every evening, we got rid of any decoration that had a secular Christmas theme. Out went Santa!

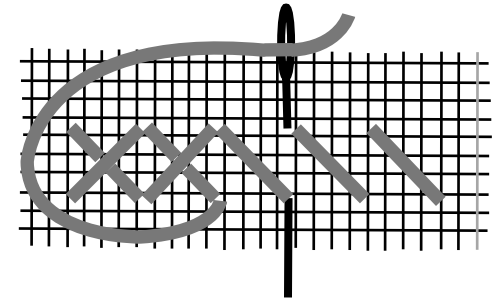
This left a bit of a problem, though. It is difficult to find liturgically appropriate decorations and designs for the Advent and Christmas season. Snowmen, candy canes, elves and stockings abound, but little or no shepherds, stars, birds, wheat sheaves and mangers. So, over the years I have created my own decorations, including cross-stitch patterns.

The following designs are small and simple cross stitch patterns suitable for Christmas tree ornaments (which is how I used them), or embroidered onto bookmarks, placemats and napkins. They are small and simple enough that mid-aged children, eight and up, should be able to finish them quickly.



A Short Course In Cross Stitch

Bring the thread through at the lower right-hand side, insert the needle 1 block up and 1 block to the left and bring out 1 block down, thus forming a half cross, continue in this way to the end of the row. Complete the upper half of the cross as shown.



Cross stitch may be worked either from right to left or left to right, but it is important that the upper stroke of all crosses should lie in the same direction.

