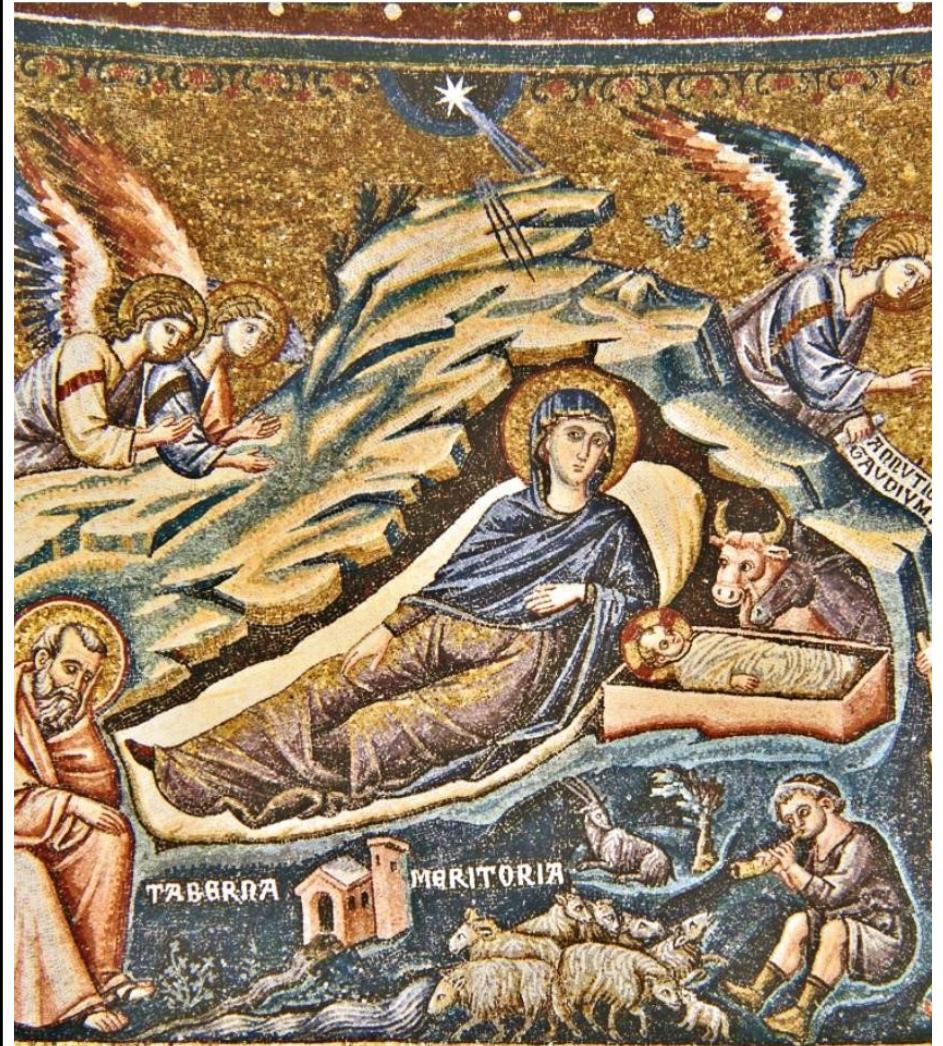


Midnight Mass



Cover Art – *The Nativity of Christ, c. 1296 A. ✕ D., by Peitro Cavallini.*

Pietro Cavallini (1259 – c. 1330) was an Italian artist who created important frescoes, mosaics and paintings in Italy in the late middle ages. The mosaic on the cover is in the Basilica di Santa Maria di Trastevere in Rome. The banner held by the angel is in Latin, and reads “I Announce Joy”, from Luke 2:10-11: “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”, the Gospel reading for Christmas midnight Mass.

The Basilica di Santa Maria is one of the oldest churches in Rome. It may be the first place in Rome that Holy Communion was openly celebrated. The first sanctuary built on the site was erected in 221 A. ✕ D. by Callixtus I. Previously it was the site of the *Taberna Meritoria*, an ancient asylum for retired soldiers, pictured in the bottom of the mosaic. The floor plan of the existing church dates to c. 340 A. ✕ D.

The Nativity Of Our Lord