



Bringing Home the Word

Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)
December 18, 2022

He Is One of Us

By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

The Incarnation means God is one of us. He is made of our flesh and blood; he laughs, sings, and loves people. Though we believe he is God, he is still one of us. We can choose him to be on our team, trusting he will play to win.

When identifying ourselves, we normally tell others what we do. Societies like the one to which Jesus belonged usually identified themselves by tracing ancestry. As Isaiah tells us today, Jesus belonged to the house of David. Paul says that he was of David “according to the flesh” (Romans 1:3). The Gospel identifies Joseph as a “son of David” (Matthew 1:20). Since Jesus was considered Joseph’s legal son, he

also was a “son of David.” Joseph is told that the child will be called Emmanuel, which means “God is with us” (Matthew 1:23). Thus, Incarnation means God is with us in a unique way in this man who is one of us. The Incarnation also gives extraordinary dignity to material creation, of which we are all a part and of which he is a part as well, for he is one of us. In other words, Emmanuel (God with us) is a Child of earth.

Like Joseph, we cannot fully comprehend what has happened. We can only stand with him in awe as this wondrous mystery unfolds before us. As we await Christmas, we wait for him to appear. When he comes, we will be amazed to see that he is really one of us. +

A Word from Pope Francis

Joseph trusts God totally.... This unshakable trust in God that enabled him to accept a humanly difficult...situation. Joseph understands, in faith, that the child born in Mary’s womb is not his child, but the Son of God, and he, Joseph, will be [the] guardians.

Angelus, Rome, December 22, 2019



Sunday Readings

Isaiah 7:10-14

The Lord himself will give you a sign.

Romans 1:1-7

Through [Jesus Christ] we have received the grace of apostleship.

Matthew 1:18-24

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means “God is with us.”

*Though we believe
Jesus is God,
he is still one of us.*



- How does knowing that Jesus is one of us make a difference in your life?
- What religious sentiments fill your mind and heart as we approach Christmas?

What the World Needs

By Emily Blasik

As corny as it may sound, the last two months of the year are my favorites out of the twelve. From the start of November on, it's as if something changes in the air.

The change is subtle, but I start to see it everywhere: I see it on early-morning walks before the sun has fully risen, when the grass is wet beneath my feet, and the weather is cool enough even in the South to warrant a cup of hot cocoa.

I see it on the face of every young child in anticipation of Santa's arrival. I feel it driving to work with the radio turned up, each song chanting like a countdown of the time before Christmas.

I relish it in the window displays of my favorite city storefronts.

People are nicer this time of year. They seem to be more patient and less bogged down by the weight of their world. And it's been my experience that even those who claim to hate Christmas music or the cold or the other trappings of the season can't help but smile a little brighter come December.

But why? What is it about this season that makes us a little giddy, despite ourselves? For me, it's the collective anticipation that springs to life in everyone I encounter. As a society,



holidays tend to captivate us, so we plan and prepare tirelessly. We love it because it's exciting to have something to look forward to. The stockings are hung on our mantles, the gifts are bought and wrapped with care, the cookies are baked and decorated—all a foretaste of and ways to celebrate what's ahead.

Our celebrations and holiday traditions hold deep meaning. For us, as Christians, who recognize the importance of this holiday season, the joy simply can't be contained. And it shouldn't be! It's meant to be shared. Christmas carols and cakes are great, but the news of our Savior's birth is enough to change us all, believers and nonbelievers alike. As a community in need of hope and light and love, we await his precious coming like a child awaits Christmas morning—with anxious hearts and sleepless eyes—because we know it's what this world needs most.

So light your candles. Prepare your homes. Loudly sing the hymns of Advent. Be joyful and anticipate the coming of Christ with all you have. Is there a better reason to celebrate? +

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Next week our churches will fill with those who don't come regularly, sometimes referred to as Christmas and Easter (C&E) Catholics. In one parish, just before the collection, the pastor suggested that those who were sitting change places with those who were standing. (He even offered his seat in the sanctuary!) Make the strangers welcome. Maybe they'll come back.



Lord Jesus, so that the world may put away the weapons of war and embrace the ways of peace, love, and holiness, we pray—Be born in us, be born in our world.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

December 19–24

Monday, Advent Weekday:
Jgs 13:2–7, 24–25a / Lk 1:5–25

Tuesday, Advent Weekday:
Is 7:10–14 / Lk 1:26–38

Wednesday, Advent Weekday:
Sg 2:8–14 or Zep 3:14–18a / Lk 1:39–45

Thursday, Advent Weekday:
1 Sm 1:24–28 / Lk 1:46–56

Friday, Advent Weekday:
Mal 3:1–4, 23–24 / Lk 1:57–66

Saturday, Advent Weekday (Morning):
2 Sm 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16 / Lk 1:67–79

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