LIVING FAITH

A RESOURCE FOR FAMILIES

ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. JOHN'S

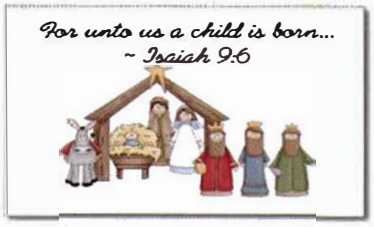
CHRISTMAS DAY—THE FEAST OF THE INCARNATION
DECEMBER 25TH, 2016

THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY—The Word became flesh
John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

… And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me." ') From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS



REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

Jesus came to be the light that shines in the darkness. What a beautiful image! And the Gospel goes on to tell us that the darkness will never overcome the light. We follow that light, the light that is Jesus Christ. We are people of the light. We are called to bring light to all the darkened corners of this world, all the places in life that could use a little light. How do we do this? We bring light by choosing to bring light. It's a conscious choice, motivated by the love that's placed in our hearts by God. When we choose to be honest instead of dishonest, we bring light. When we choose to speak kindness rather than be harsh, we choose the way of light. When we choose to help a neighbour, rather than pass by, we choose the way of Jesus. No one has ever seen God, but in us and through our choices, people may experience the love of God, and that may make all the difference for some people. Merry Christmas!

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THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS
JESUS CAME TO BE OUR LIGHT
SO THAT WE CAN THEN SHARE HIS LIGHT WITH OTHERS

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness
did not overcome it.

Follow the Light. Be the Light.

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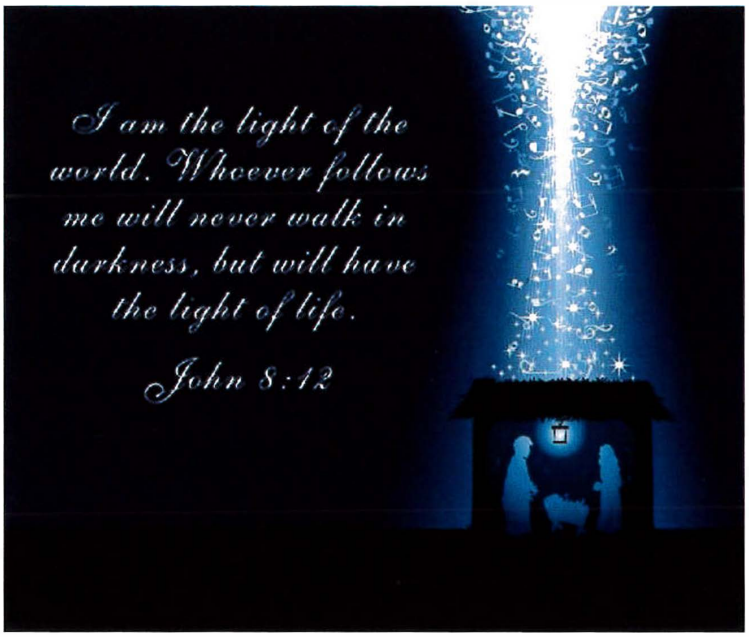
THE CHURCH TEACHES



THE REVELATION OF GOD
from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
I. God Reveals His "Plan of Loving Goodness"

51. "It pleased God, in his goodness and wisdom, to reveal himself and to make known the mystery of his will. His will was that men should have access to the Father, through Christ, the Word made flesh, in the Holy Spirit, and thus become sharers in the divine nature."

52. God, who "dwells in unapproachable light", wants to communicate his own divine life to the men he freely created, in order to adopt them as his sons in his only-begotten Son. By revealing himself God wishes to make them capable of responding to him, and of knowing him and of loving him far beyond their own natural capacity.

53. The divine plan of Revelation is realized simultaneously "by deeds and words which are intrinsically bound up with each other" and shed light on each another. It involves a specific divine pedagogy: God communicates himself to man gradually. He prepares him to welcome by stages the supernatural Revelation that is to culminate in the person and mission of the incarnate Word, Jesus Christ.

> St. Irenaeus of Lyons repeatedly speaks of this divine pedagogy using the image of God and man becoming accustomed to one another: the Word of God dwelt in man and became the Son of man in order to accustom man to perceive God and to accustom God to dwell in man, according to the Father's pleasure.

CHRISTMAS IS HERE!

THE MOST IMPORTANT PIECE OF YOUR CHRISTMAS CRIB IS PLACED THERE TODAY.

WHO COULD NOT LOVE A BABY SO SMALL?
GOD WANTS US TO LOVE, AND TO LOVE ONE AND ALL.

In the stable that you placed in your home four weeks ago,
place the figures of Mary, Joseph and the Baby Jesus.

In the scene below, list some ways that you can share the love and hope of Christmas with others.