

LIVING FAITH

December 25, 2019

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD-- CHRISTMAS



THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

Luke 2:1-14

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.

He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

This will be a sign for you:

you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.'

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

PONDER AND DISCUSS

- That first Christmas, there was no room for Jesus to be born in the inn.
- This Christmas, how will you make room in your heart for Him?

The Birth of Jesus

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7 (KJV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



L	S	W	M	H	Y	N	J	G	A	O	Z	P	X	K	F	I	U	B	E	T	C	V	Q	D	R
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 8-11-2-20-13-5 _____
- 4-10-26-6 _____
- 19-20-21-5-1-20-5-20-4 _____
- 19-10-19-6 _____
- 19-11-26-7 _____
- 4-10-7-9-20-26 _____
- 10-7-9-20-1 _____
- 2-5-20-13-5-20-26-25-2 _____
- 2-10-23-17-11-26 _____
- 4-20-2-2-17-10-5 _____

SHEPHERDS	BETHLEHEM	BABY	MESSIAH	JOSEPH
SAVIOR	MANGER	BORN	MARY	ANGEL

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THE CHURCH TEACHES

“... he chose to be born in a cold cavern without a fire to warm him. He chose to have the livestock’s manger for his cradle, and a little prickly straw for his bedding, in order that he might experience what poor people have to experience.”

- St. Alphonsus Liguori



“We consider Christmas as the encounter, the great encounter, the historical encounter, the decisive encounter, between God and mankind. Those who has faith knows this truly; let them rejoice.”

-Pope Paul VI



“The teacher of children became himself a child among children, that he might instruct the unwise. The Bread of heaven came down to earth to feed the hungry.”

-Cyril of Jerusalem



“He was made flesh that we might be made God.” - St. Athanasius of Alexandria

“Christmas is joy, religious joy, an inner joy of light and peace.”

-Pope Francis



The Son of God, in becoming human for our sake, might have appeared in the world at the age of a grown man, the way Adam appeared when he was created. But since children usually attract greater love to themselves from those who take care of them, Jesus chose to appear on earth as an infant; and as the poorest and most miserable infant ever born.

- St. Alphonsus Liguori



“Our God chose to be born this way because he wanted to be loved.”

- St. Peter Chrysologus



“This day He who Is, is Born; and He who is becomes what He was not.”

- St. John Chrysostom



ONE SOLITARY LIFE



He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman.
He grew up in still another village where he worked until he was thirty.

Then for three years, he was an itinerant preacher.

He never wrote a book.

He never held an office.

He never had a family or owned a home.

He didn't go to college.

He never traveled more than 200 miles from the place he was born.

He did none of the things one usually associates with greatness.

He had no credentials but himself;

he was only thirty-three when public opinion turned against him.

His friends ran away.

He was turned over to his enemies and went through the mockery of a trial.

He was nailed to the cross between two thieves.

While he was dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing,
the only property he had on earth.

When he was dead

he was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen centuries have come and gone
and today he is the central figure of the human race.

All the armies that ever marched,

all the navies that ever sailed,

all the parliaments that ever sat,

all the kings that ever reigned,

put together,

have not affected the life of humanity as much as that One Solitary Life.

Adapted from James Allan Francis, *The Real Jesus and Other Sermons* (Philadelphia: Judson Press, 1926).

