

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 19, 2021



4th SUNDAY *of Advent*

"And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy." - Lk 1:43-44

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

2540 San Diego Avenue, San Diego, CA 92110
(619) 295-4141

www.immaculate-conception-sandiego.org — parish@icc-sandiego.org

Mass Intentions

Dec. 18 - Fourth Sunday of Advent- Vigil
†Josefina Figueroa de Ortiz

Dec. 19 -Fourth Sunday of Advent
8:30 - †Santiago Gonzalez Barrina
10:00 - †William & Lucille Brown
11:30 - People of Immaculate Conception

Dec. 20 - Late Advent Weekday
Gerda Albers, SI

Dec. 21 - Late Advent Weekday
The Spera Family, SI

Dec. 22 - Late Advent Weekday
Maria Elena Hernandez, SI

Dec. 23 - Late Advent Weekday
Elizabeth Tellez, SI

Dec. 24 - Late Advent Weekday
4:00 pm -The King Family, SI
7:00 pm - †Donald & Eleanor Goodman
10 pm - Gonzalez-Garza Family, SI

Dec. 25 - The Nativity of the Lord
8:30 Anne Steinmann, SI
10:00 - People of Immaculate Conception

If you wish to request a Mass intention for a family member or friend, contact the parish office.

FR. GARRETT GALVIN, OFM
Parish Administrator

FR. VINCENT MESI, OFM
SACRAMENTAL & SPIRITUAL LEADER
Email: vmesi@icc-sandiego.org

IN RESIDENCE:
FR. JOSEPH CHINNICI, OFM,
FR. MICHAEL BLASTIC, OFM
BR. MOISES GUTIERREZ RIVAS, OFM

Daily Readings

Monday: Is 7:10-14, Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a, Lk 1:39-45

Wednesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28, Lk 1:46-56

Thursday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24, Lk 1:57-66

Friday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79

Saturday: Is 52::7-10, Jn 1:1-18

Sunday: 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28, 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24,
Lk 9:41-52

Pray for Our Sick

Alex & Toni Alvarez, Jeanne Agnello, Joane Anderson, Jeanne Agnello, Vee Anzalone, Frank Barone, Susan Besecker, Marilyn Breanna, Cosmo & Joan Busalacchi, Reginald Custodio, Michael Denny, Arline Fisch, Julie Fish, Olive Glorioso, Donna Hovanec, Shirley Ilog, Donna Cruz Jones, Patricia Haase, Ricardo Hernandez, Olivia Ingram, Liam McNichol, Ardith Moore, Grace Mulvanity, Madison Neola, Stephanie Ng, Jose de Jesus Nungaray, Angelica Ortega, Ann Orwig, Rene Milbauer Rice, Anyssa Sanchez, Tom Sapien, Crystal Spera, Rita Tarango, Linda Thompson, Teresa Tingle, Teresa Tolan, Marie Whitman, Barbara Wingler.

Mass Schedule

Weekdays: Monday thru Saturday, 8:00 AM

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil: 5:15 PM

Sunday: 8:30 AM*, 10:00 AM, 11:30 AM

*live-streamed & open to attendees

Holy Day Masses: To be announced.

Reconciliation: Saturday, 4:30 to 5:00 p.m., or after weekday morning Mass and by appointment.

Baptisms: By appointment only. Please contact the parish office.

Weddings: By appointment only. Arrangements must be made at least one year in advance. Please contact the parish office.

Funerals: For arrangements, please call the parish.
Parish Office: 619-295-4141

Offering.

Due to publication deadlines,
report of offerings for Dec. 11-12
Is not available.

**COFFEE &
DONUTS ...**



**JOIN US IN THE HALL AFTER THE 8:30 OR
10:00 MASS FOR A DONUT WITH A CUP OF
COFFEE AND/OR ORANGE JUICE.
LET'S GET ACQUAINTED!**

Christmas Message from Fr. Vince

Dear Friends,
Peace and all Good!

This Christmas we will celebrate the greatest gift of God—that the love of God has been revealed to us: It is Jesus! Our Holy Father Pope Francis tells us that the grace of God revealed in the birth of Jesus in a stable in Bethlehem “is divine love, the love that changes lives, renews history, liberates from evil, fills hearts with peace and joy.”

As the pope pointed out further, God does not love you because you think and act the right way. God loves us pure and simple. Even if we have made a mess of things over this past year since the last Christmas, God continues to love us!

My brothers and sisters, as we spend this next week preparing for Christmas Day—perhaps frantically—I invite us all to take some time out to draw near to Christ in the tabernacle and to the manger scene you are putting up in your homes and simply say thank you. And in receiving this gift of Jesus, may we pledge to be like him by being a gift to others!

On behalf of the friars and staff of Immaculate Conception Parish, I wish all of you God’s special blessings this Christmas and always!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Vince".

Children’s Mass on Christmas Day!

December 25th at 10:00 a.m. Festive Mass

The wonder of Christmas is best seen in the simplicity of children amazed at the celebration of birth of Jesus on Christmas morning! It is always so special to witness parents bring their children to visit the Christmas manger scene pointing out all the figures in the scene and especially the tiny child of Bethlehem. If you are bringing children to Mass on Christmas, you are invited to attend the 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Mass. We will have a Special Procession to the creche and a sweet children’s homily! “Let the little children come to me.” (Matthew 19:14)

Epiphany Potluck Party

January 2, 2022

COST: One new blanket and socks to donate to the orphanage managed by the Trinitarians of Mary. Socks may be for children or adults.

The Trinitarians of Mary will present concert in the church from 5:00 - 5:45 p.m. Potluck in the hall follows the concert.

**Suggestion for Potluck
(Last name beginning with...)**

A-I Main Dish

J-R Salad or Side Dish

S-Z APPETIZERS

Dessert will be provided by the parish.

**Celebrate “All Stages of Life” in the
10 San Diego Walk for Life!**

Join Bishop McElroy and 2,000 faithful to stand up for life, especially for the life of the unborn, on Saturday, January 15, 2022, 8:30 a.m. at Waterfront Park (Grape St. and Harbor Dr.), downtown San Diego. Bring your family, friends, and fellow ministers to enjoy the inspirational speakers, live music, exhibitors, and raffles. Also, bring your posters with life-affirming messages. Learn more about the walk at www.sandiegowalkforlife.org or call (858) 490-8324.



When the smallness of the Church is not insignificant

The Pope's message to the Catholic Church in Greece is precious for everyone.

Andrea Torielli

Vatican News

Published December 06, 20221

On Saturday, Pope Francis spoke to the Church of Greece about the value of smallness, because being a small Church - as in the case of the Catholic flock of this country - makes it an eloquent sign of the Gospel. The God announced by Jesus chooses the little ones and the poor, He reveals Himself in the desert and not in the palaces of power. The Church, not only the Greek one, is being asked not to boast and pursue big numbers, but to abandon the wordly desire of wanting to be important and a relevant global player.

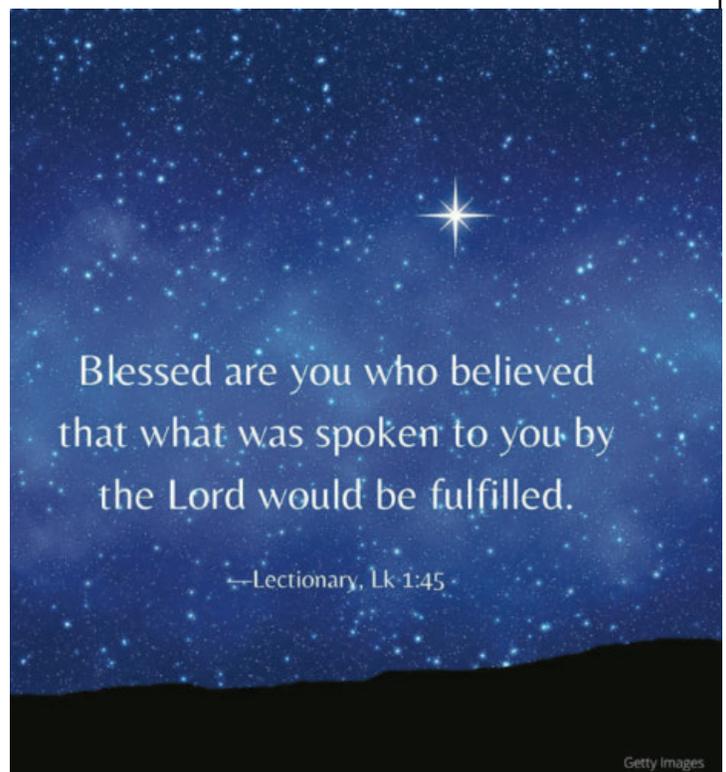
However, Pope Francis also explained that being small is not the same as being insignificant. Being a yeast that ferments silently hidden "within the dough of the world" is indeed the opposite of resigning to a quiet life moved by inertia. As a way forward, the Pope indicates the path of openness to the others, of service, accompaniment, listening, and of concrete witness of closeness to everyone: this is the opposite of a withdrawn Church that does not come out of her shell and is complacent with her own smallness.

Faced with secularization and the difficulties Christians are confronted with today in transmitting their faith, we might be tempted to close up, trying to create perfect communities that withdraw from the world to preserve their small, or very small, flock, waiting for the storm to pass, looking with nostalgia to a past that no longer exists.

On the other hand, another real risk today is that of

hyperactivity: we might be tempted to invest all our energies in missionary strategies, thinking that proclamation, witness, and even conversion are not fruits of the Spirit we should give space to, but the result of our skills and protagonism. As a consequence - and, unfortunately, this happens more and more often in our digital age - the risk is that the evangelizer and his ruses rather than the Gospel and its Protagonist become the focus of evangelization. Indeed, we need to leave space to the Protagonist: this is the real meaning of conversion as a metanoia, a change of mentality in light of the Gospel.

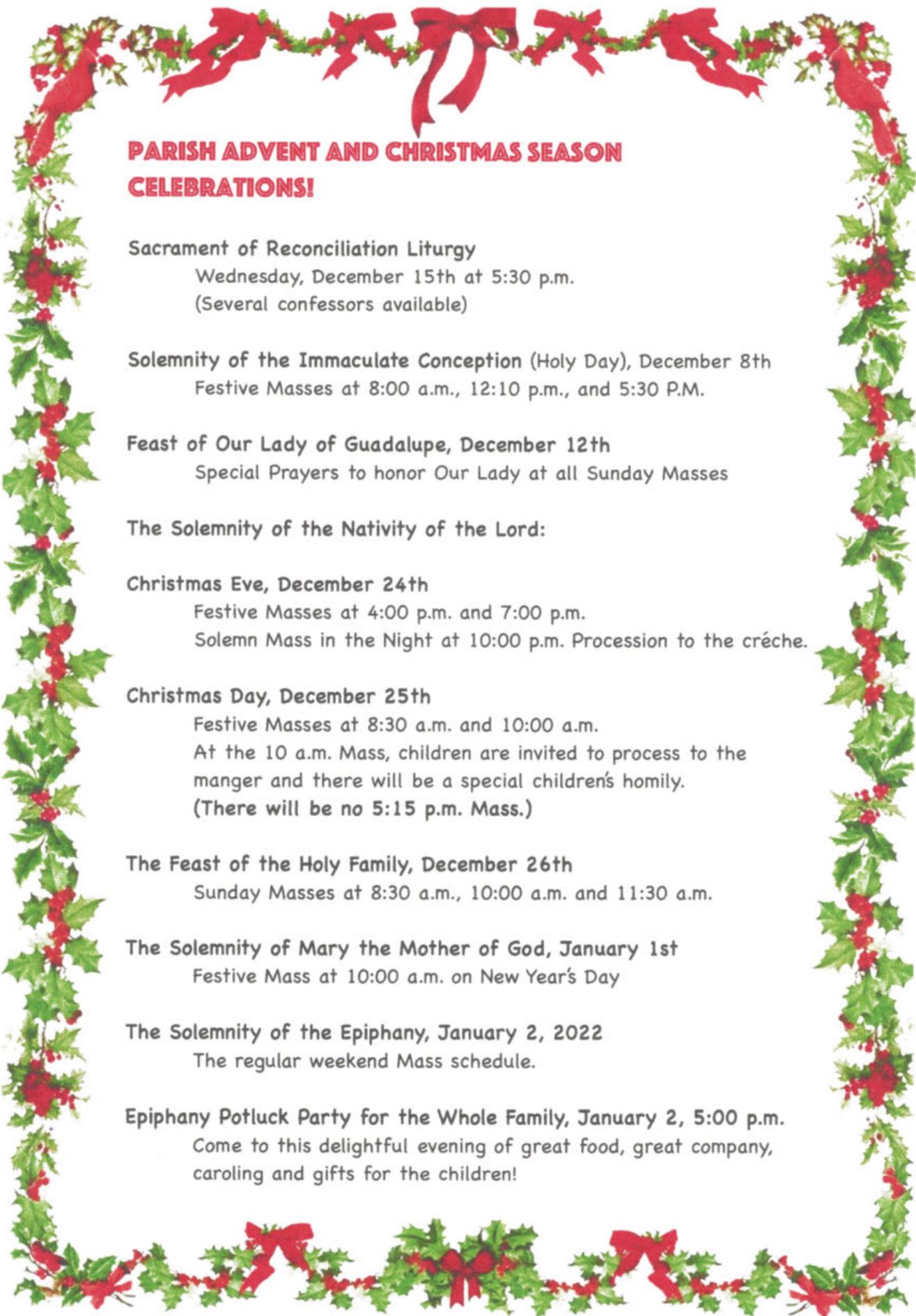
The smallness Pope Francis refers to is therefore a gift. It is being aware that without the Lord we can do nothing and that it is God who precedes us, converts, supports, changes. And this awareness is also precious for the Churches that are still numerically significant: the opportunity offered by the synodal path that has just begun can help the Christian communities to free themselves from the snares of bureaucracy, clericalism, institutionalism, to build, or rebuild, a fabric of human relationships, in which witness flourishes



Blessed are you who believed
that what was spoken to you by
the Lord would be fulfilled.

—Lectionary, Lk 1:45

Getty Images



**PARISH ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON
CELEBRATIONS!**

Sacrament of Reconciliation Liturgy

Wednesday, December 15th at 5:30 p.m.

(Several confessors available)

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (Holy Day), December 8th

Festive Masses at 8:00 a.m., 12:10 p.m., and 5:30 P.M.

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, December 12th

Special Prayers to honor Our Lady at all Sunday Masses

The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord:

Christmas Eve, December 24th

Festive Masses at 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Solemn Mass in the Night at 10:00 p.m. Procession to the crèche.

Christmas Day, December 25th

Festive Masses at 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

At the 10 a.m. Mass, children are invited to process to the manger and there will be a special children's homily.

(There will be no 5:15 p.m. Mass.)

The Feast of the Holy Family, December 26th

Sunday Masses at 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

The Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, January 1st

Festive Mass at 10:00 a.m. on New Year's Day

The Solemnity of the Epiphany, January 2, 2022

The regular weekend Mass schedule.

Epiphany Potluck Party for the Whole Family, January 2, 5:00 p.m.

Come to this delightful evening of great food, great company, caroling and gifts for the children!

SPIRITUALITY AND THE SECOND HALF OF LIFE

Published October 5, 2020 - Ron Rolheiser, OMI

One size doesn't fit everyone. This isn't just true for clothing, it's also true for spirituality. Our challenges in life change as we age. Spirituality hasn't always been fully sensitive to this. True, we've always had tailored instruction and activities for children, young people, and for people who are raising children, carrying a job, and paying a mortgage, but we've never developed a spirituality for what happens when those years are over.

Why is one needed? Jesus seemingly didn't have one. He didn't have one set of teachings for the young, another for those in mid-life, and still another for the elderly. He just taught. The Sermon on the Mount, the parables, and his invitation to take up his cross are intended in the same way for everyone, irrespective of age. But we hear those teaching at very different times in our lives; and it's one thing to hear the Sermon the Mount when you're seven years old, another when you're twenty-seven, and quite another when you're eighty-seven. Jesus' teachings don't change, but we do, and they offer very specific challenges at different times of our lives.

Christian spirituality has generally kept this in mind, with one exception. Except for Jesus and an occasional mystic, it has failed to develop an explicit spirituality for our later years, for how we are meant to be generative in our senior years and how we are to die in a life-giving way. But there's a good reason for this lacuna. Simply put, it wasn't needed because up until this last century most people never lived into old age. For example, in Palestine, in Jesus' time, the average life expectancy was thirty to thirty-five years. A century ago in the United States, it was still less than fifty years. When most people in the world died before they reached the age of fifty, there was no real need for a spirituality of aging.

There is such a spirituality inside the Gospels. Even though he died at thirty-three, Jesus left us a paradigm of how to age and die. But that paradigm, while healthily infusing and undergirding Christian spirituality in general, was never developed more specifically into a spirituality of aging (with the exception of some of the great Christian mystics).

After Jesus, the Desert fathers and mothers folded the question of how to age and die into the overall framework of their spirituality. For them, spirituality was a quest to "see the face of God" and that, as Jesus makes clear, requires one thing, purity of heart.

So for them, no matter your age, the challenge was the same, trying to achieve purity of heart. Then in the age of the persecutions and the early Christian martyrs, the idea developed that the ideal way to age and die was through martyrdom. Later, when Christians were no longer physically martyred, the idea took hold that you could take on a voluntary type of martyrdom by living the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience. They believed that living these, like the quest for purity of heart, taught you all you needed to know, no matter your age. Eventually this was expanded to mean that anyone who faithfully responded to the duties in his or her life, irrespective of age, would learn everything necessary to come to sanctity through that fidelity. As a famous aphorism put it: Stay inside your cell and it will teach you all you need to know. Understood properly, there's a spirituality of aging and dying inside these notions, but until recently there was little need to draw that out more explicitly.

Happily, today the situation is changing and we're developing, more and more, some explicit spiritualities of aging and dying. Perhaps this reflects an aging population, but there's now a burgeoning body of literature, both religious and secular, that's taking up the question of aging and dying. These authors, too numerous to mention, include many names already familiar to us: Henri Nouwen, Richard Rohr, Kathleen Dowling Singh, David Brooks, Cardinal Bernardin, Michael Paul Gallagher, Joan Chittister, Parker Palmer, Marilyn Chandler McEntyre, Paul Kalanithi, Erica Jong, Kathie Roiphe, and Wilkie and Noreen Au, among others. Coming from a variety of perspectives, each of these offer insights into what God and nature intend for us in our later years.

In essence, here's the issue: today, we're living longer and healthier late into life. It's common today to retire sometime in our early sixties after having raised our children, superannuated from our jobs, and paid our mortgages. So what's next, given that we probably have twenty or thirty more years of health and energy left? What are these years for? What are we called to now, beyond loving our grandkids? Abraham and Sarah, in their old age, were invited to set out for a new land and conceive a child long after this was biologically impossible for them. That's our call too. What "Isaac" are we called to give birth to in our later years? We need guidance.

Used with permission of the author, Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser. He can be contacted through his website, www.ronrolheiser.com. Follow on Facebook www.facebook.com/ronrolheiser.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 19, 2021



Cetty Images

Blessing of a Christmas Manger

In its present form the custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Jesus Christ owes its origin to St. Francis of Assisi, who made the Christmas crèche or manger for Christmas Eve of 1223.

The blessing of the Christmas manger or nativity scene may take place on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time.

When the manger is set up in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another family member.

All make the sign of the cross as
the leader says:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

R/. Who made heaven and earth.

One of those present or the leader reads
a text of sacred Scripture, for example,
Luke 2:1 (lines 1-8) or Isaiah 7:10
(lines 10-15, the birth of Emmanuel).

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The leader prays with hands joined:

God of every nation and people,
from the very beginning of creation
you have made manifest your love:

when our need for a Savior was great

you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin
Mary.

To our lives he brings joy and peace,
justice, mercy, and love.

Lord,

bless all who look upon this manger;
may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,
and raise our thoughts to him,
who is God-with-us and Savior of all,
and who lives and reigns forever and ever.

R/. Amen.



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