

Sunday, December 25, 2022

## Solemnity of Christmas

### SUNDAY READINGS:

Vigil: Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25  
Midnight: Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14  
Dawn: Isaiah 62:11-12; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20  
Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18

### SUNDAY GOSPEL (from Mass for Christmas Day):

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 to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him.

But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. John testified to him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'" From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him.

### QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY DISCUSSION IN PREPARATION FOR SUNDAY

*With it being Christmas, answer this week's questions in light of reflecting on the birth of Christ.*

1. *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.* Describe some of the darkness (disappointments, difficulties, obstacles, etc.) that you've faced so far in your life. How does Jesus' birth 2000+ years ago impact how you see and deal with those things? When other family members are going through tough times and can only experience darkness, how can we encourage one another and remind one another of the hope that comes from Jesus' birth?
2. *Testify to the light.* To testify is share our first-hand experience of something. List a couple of ways that you have directly experienced Jesus, the Light? What are some ways we can share with others (starting right in our own family) times that we've experienced Christ in our own lives?
3. *The world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him.* Think of some times that you didn't accept Jesus—when you chose to do the wrong thing even though you knew it wasn't what God wanted you to do. Now, using your imagination, think about accepting baby Jesus as Mary places Him in your arms so that you can hold Him. What's different about these two things? What do you want to tell Jesus this Christmas based on the prior times that you didn't accept Him? How can you show Him that you are sorry and that you love Him?
4. *And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.* When you look at the manger scene and realize that the invisible God, Who made the whole world, became a helpless, little baby that we can see and touch, what thoughts come to mind? What emotions are you experiencing? How does reflecting on these things this Christmas differ from prior Christmases?