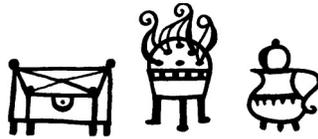


the *Quill* and the *Cloth*

*“And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.”*

- St. Luke

Happy New Year! If you attended Mass on the Holy Day of Obligation on January 1<sup>st</sup>, this line from St. Luke’s gospel should be familiar to you. For, as we start the new calendar year, we concentrate as a Universal Church, on the Blessed Mother and her title, “Mother of God”. The gospel of St. Luke depicts a young mother, Mary of Nazareth, “reflecting” on all that has transpired in her brief life, as she perhaps was holding the Christ child in her arms.



Mary had much to mull over in her young life. For while she was still a teenager, she was visited by a celestial being. This divine messenger invites her to be the Mother of all Mothers, by being the “Mother of God”. Mary agrees to this divine idea, not fully understanding what it means to “conceive by the Holy Spirit”, and without any human help. Joseph, on the other hand, is “spooked” by the announcement that Mary is expecting, when she is already his wife. He makes quiet plans to divorce himself from her when he receives a dream from an angel convincing him to take Mary as his wife, not because she is impure but beyond purity. She is “immaculate”.

There is little doubt that Mary was most likely whispered about by the locals in the same sentence as the word “adulteress” was used, for she and Joseph were married but not living together. As they worked all through that, they had to travel on a government order to enroll in a national census. And as luck would have it, the labor pains kicked in and she would have to give birth in a barn as there were no vacancies at that small town inn. Shepherds showed up that night also claiming, like Mary and Joseph, that they had been addressed by angels.

***The Good News that Mary “reflected” on the recent events no doubt revealed to her a ‘holy pattern’. An angel spoke to her nine months earlier. An angel spoke to her husband Joseph a few months after that. And angel spoke to those shepherds on the night her son was born. Angels! Angels! Angels are messengers from God and God obviously had a very important message.***

As we begin the New Year, we heard on New Year’s Day that Mary “reflected” on these holy moments of her life. This weekend, on the Feast of Epiphany, we hear the Holy Family “receiving” the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ***Regardless if it is the “heart” or the “home”, the***

**“mind” or “material” reality, the nature of Mary and the Holy Family is to REFLECT AND RECEIVE, NOT RETURN OR REMOVE.**

Now that the rush of Christmas shopping and giving has been wrapped up for another year, it is the time we are “returning” what we did not want or could not use. Also with the New Year, comes New Year’s resolutions. We resolve to “remove” things from our life...smoking...strong drink...perhaps swearing, etc.

**\*\*\*Maybe the year of 2016 will be “Happy” if, instead of “REMOVING” or “REJECTING” the bad or the things that bother us and we do not like, perhaps we could be spiritually positive like Mary and the Holy Family by instead receiving the good.** Like Mary, maybe we could “reflect” on those “coincidences” that occur in our life (*maybe not angels talking to friends and neighbors*), but instead those striking daily examples that show God is with us, guiding us and loving us.

Maybe this will be the year we won’t “reject” things from our life, but rather welcome (in the spirit of Epiphany) those “golden” opportunities of something you have always wanted to do or see. Maybe you will welcome the gift of smelling (frank)incense more by coming to church more frequently on the weekends or maybe more during the week day. Maybe you might welcome the gift of death (*in the spirit of St. Francis and the gift of myrrh*) by visiting those who are ill, dying or trying to patch a broken relationship with a family member, co-worker or friend.

I always make New Year’s resolutions, but they are usually more about “receiving” rather than “rejecting”. In 2016, I want to “receive” a bit more time for personal prayer, return to biking and some more quality time with the guitar. I also will work on receiving a better order in the office and officially end the unpacking, as there are still a dozen or two boxes that need to be sorted through. (*There may be some “rejection” of things in those boxes as I continue to downsize.*) And my list goes on!

But whatever your resolutions might be (*and do try to make a couple of them*), let them take on the GOOD NEWS nature of Mary and the Holy Family of “receiving” the good, so that when the smell of myrrh or incense reaches our nostrils at the time of our death, we might have no “regrets” but rather be “received” and welcomed by the Son of Mary, Jesus Christ into everlasting life. Happy New Year Holy Rosary!

*Rev. Paul van de Crommert*  
**Rev. Paul van de Crommert**  
 Pastor

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**  
*“While there is life, there is hope.”*  
 - Marcus Tullius Cicero

**STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE**

Adult (129)	\$ 8,988.00
Electronic Giving	2,523.25
Junior	23.00
Plate	238.85
Christmas Flowers	5.00
Christmas Adult (196)	13,284.00
Christmas Plate	1,601.22
Christmas Junior	170.63
Loyola Catholic School Collection	2,244.85
Religious Retirement Fund	20.00
Rental Income	1,000.00

**Grand Total \$ 30,098.80**

*\*(Our weekly budget is set at \$12,900.00)*

**STEWARDSHIP**

Thank you for your generous stewardship over the Christmas holiday. Not only were you generous with your “treasure”, but also your “time” as we had an awesome attendance. Also, there was so much “talent” that was shared from the singing to the serving and the like.

This week in my office, I reviewed our parish finances as we closed out the first half of the 2015-2016 Financial Year. I am most pleased to report that our revenue is up from a year ago by 22.4%. Last year, our total revenue at the close of 2014 came to \$351,778.28. This year, our revenue closed out at \$430,658.96. Our Christmas/Holy Family contributions increased from last year by more than \$6,000.00! THANK YOU SO MUCH!

May the Christmas of 2015 and the New Year of 2016, be one to remember for a long time to come. Health, Happiness and Holiness to you all in the New Year ahead!

**BAPTISM BLESSINGS**

God’s blessings and best wishes go out to Brad & Beth Wersal on the occasion of Baptism of their son, Luke Thomas. May the Holy Sacrament of Baptism for the newest member of Holy Rosary be the beginning of a holy and “saintly” relationship with the Savior and His bride the Church. Congratulations!



**NEW TO HOLY ROSARY?**

Are you new to Holy Rosary parish? We are glad that you are with us! All you need to do to register is to stop or call the parish office during office hours. Elaine, our Office Administrator, will be happy to help you. The registration takes only a couple minutes to fill out. For those of you that are registered and know of someone who is looking for a parish family, be an evangelizer and tell them how easy it was to join!

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS**

**STUDENTS**

Enjoy your Christmas break and we’ll see you in the coming new year! Grades 7 – 11 will meet on January 6<sup>th</sup> with social hour/ pizza beginning at 6:00 pm. Class time is 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm.



**"COR JESU" HOLY HOUR, CONFESSION, AND PRAISE MUSIC FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS**

Imagine over 200 young people kneeling together before Our Lord truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. A priest has just preached on the merciful love of God which is waiting for them in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. As a band plays contemplative praise music, each of these young people begins a dialogue with the Lord, opening their hearts to his mercy in a new way. One by one, they get up and wait in line for Confession. When they come back, their faces are radiant with new hope.



This is "Cor Jesu," an event for youth and young adults. During this Year of Mercy, the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, together with the Office of Worship, is bringing it to the Diocese of New Ulm!

**The first "Cor Jesu" event will be held at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, New Ulm on Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm.**

For more information, please check out [www.dnu.org/diocesan-events](http://www.dnu.org/diocesan-events) or call Cathy Neve at 345-6765.

**UPCOMING DATES**

**January 6<sup>th</sup>:** Grades 7 – 11 meet from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Social Hour/Pizza available from 6:00 pm to 6:50 pm. (A \$3 donation is suggested for pizza.)

**January 13<sup>th</sup>:** Grades 1 – 6 meet from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

**January 20<sup>th</sup>:** Grades 7 – 11 meet from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Social Hour/Pizza available from 6:00 pm to 6:50 pm. (A \$3 donation is suggested for pizza.)

**January 24<sup>th</sup>: First Reconciliation at 3:00 pm – Second Graders**



**January 27<sup>th</sup>:** Grades 1 – 6 meet from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

**February 6<sup>th</sup>:** Grades 7 – 11 meet from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Social Hour/Pizza available from 6:00 pm to 6:50 pm.

**THE WEEK AHEAD**

**Monday, Jan. 4: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious**

8:05 am – Rosary  
8:30 am – Mass - Paul Ulmen†

**Tuesday, Jan. 5: Saint John Neumann, Bishop**

7:00 am – Mass at Ss. Peter & Paul  
8:15 am – Mass at St. John the Baptist  
12:05 pm – Mass at St. Joseph the Worker  
7:30 pm – River of Life (Conf. Rm. 2)

**Wednesday, Jan. 6: Christmas Weekday (Saint André Bessette, Religious)**

**NO AM Mass**  
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm – Sewing Group (Lower Parish Center)  
6:00 pm – Social Hour/Pizza for Rel. Ed.  
7:00 pm – Grades 7 - 11 Rel. Ed. Classes

**Thursday, Jan. 7: Christmas Weekday (Saint Raymond of Penafort, Priest)**

10:15 am – Mass at Pathstone (Fr. Paul)  
- Alan Weingartz†

**Friday, Jan. 8: Christmas Weekday**

8:05 am – Rosary  
8:30 am – Mass - George Holzerland†

**Saturday, Jan. 9: Christmas Weekday**

4:30 pm – Sacrament of Reconciliation  
4:30 pm – Rosary  
5:00 pm – Mass - Peter Etzell†

**Sunday, Jan. 10: The Baptism of the Lord**

7:30 am – Rosary  
8:00 am – Mass - People of the Parish  
9:30 am – Rosary  
10:00 am – Mass - Sebastian & Gloria Lena  
& Emmanuel Anthonisamy†  
(Nursery, Pre-K Sunday School & CLW  
during the 10:00 am Mass)

**BECOMING CATHOLIC?**

Do you know of someone who would be interested in becoming a full member of the Catholic Church and a full member of Holy Rosary parish? Evangelization begins not with a bulletin, but rather being a Good News person and talking to someone that you know in your house or your neighborhood who is seeking a deeper relationship with the Lord.



Last year, we received some six members into full communion in the Catholic Church. Please contact the parish office if you know of someone or perhaps that “someone” can call the parish office as well to learn more about what it requires to become a member of the Catholic faith. Please call 387-6501. Classes will begin in January of 2016!

**JAN. 9 - 10 LITURGICAL ROLES**

**Lectors**

5:00 pm: Daniel Gowanlock  
8:00 am: Michelle Fischer  
10:00 am: Jim Schorn

**Eucharistic Ministers**

5:00 pm: Mary Clare & Tom Wyrowski, Karen Ezzell, Eileen Wadekamper, Jim Theuninck, \*Brent Friedrichs  
8:00 am: Jane Younge, Danielle & Peter Backes, Gerry Hiniker, Terri Compton, \*Gene Brandt  
10:00 am: Darlene Schorn, JoAnne Borchert, Mike & Diane O’Dea, Julie Schoettler, \*Ryan Howe

**Altar Servers**

5:00 pm: Connor McGraw (Cross, Book, Bell), Mitch Bigaouette, Riley Gruenes  
8:00 am: Grace & Ben Ellingworth, Carson Fischer  
10:00 am: Andrew Kohrs, Abi Lang, Haley Barker

**Presentation of Gifts**

***2016 Confirmandi Families***

5:00 pm: Jonathan Hull Family  
8:00 am: Alyssa Compton Family  
10:00 am: Elaine Adams Family



**Ushers**

5:00 pm: Marcy & Tom Koch, Tom Rheaume, Larry Bennett (*Head Usher*)  
8:00 am: Cathy Neve, Bill Cahalan, Mary Zellmer, Gary Zellmer (*Head Usher*)  
10:00 am: Steve Enderle, Brandon Bernard, Barb Wegscheid, Bob Wegscheid (*Head Usher*)

**Music Ministry**

5:00 pm: Kathy Jo Johns & Nancy Evans/Vicki Galli  
8:00 am: Corinne Ort/Jeanne Makela  
10:00 am: Tom Bachmann/Jeanne Makela

**Rosary Leaders**

5:00 pm: Eileen Wadekamper  
8:00 am: Sharon Lenz  
10:00 am: Donna Wolf

**Money Counters for January/February/March 2016:**

Bill Fasnacht, Shirleen Gulden, Jan Nelson, Carl Steffensmeier

**Bulletin Folders for January 2015:**

Anne Frederick, Betty Rykhuis, Dolores Portz



**LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYERS...**

**PRAYERS AND SUPPORT FOR ALL OF OUR SICK AND INJURED OF HOLY ROSARY PARISH**

Our prayers go out to all of the sick and injured in our parish who are at home, in the hospital, nursing homes or assisted-living residences. May God bless them and keep them under His guidance and protection!



**FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL**

Joe Galli, Susan Larson, David Makela, Cindy Johansen, Dan Senesac, Loretta Becker, Canton Polk, Mona Wakholz, Ruth Gag, Charles Ulman, Kathy Meyer, Daniel Crowley, Marilyn Rieff, Donna Peterson, Juliette Shamp, Ruth Baker, Ruth Fitterer, Jane Keltgen, Isaac Kolstad, Rachel Tobin, Mary Jane Ledwein, Doris Lorentz, Bill Goettlicher, Krystal Portz, Steve Fitterer, Gabriel Speckel, Shannon Murphy, Lisa LaPoint Leland, David Bruender

**FOR OUR FAMILIES**

**Monday** Myra Schroeffer  
**Tuesday** No Mass  
**Wednesday** No Mass  
**Thursday** James & Julie Wittmers  
**Friday** Joel & Christine Enevold  
**Saturday** Merle & Mary Braam  
**Sunday** Ann Schwartz

**FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY**

Nick Blace	Timothy Eick	Ben Barsness
Jared Hiniker	Matt McGraw	Sean O'Dea
Ann Winkler	Christopher Schmidt	Daniel Fitterer
Dana Schiller	Jonathan Heintz	Anna Drummer
Mark Hansen	William Backes	



**PRAYER CHAIN**

If you, or someone you know, would like to be included in our prayer chain, please call Karen Etzell, 387-7877.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Mon:** 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25  
**Tues:** 1 Jn 4:7-10/Mk 6:34-44  
**Wed:** 1 Jn 4:11-18/Mk 6:45-52  
**Thurs:** 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Lk 4:14-22a  
**Fri:** 1 Jn 5:5-13/Lk 5:12-16  
**Sat:** 1 Jn 5:14-21/Jn 3:22-30  
**Sun:** Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22, or, for Year C, Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

**K. OF C. COUNCIL #5551 NEWS**

Jan 14 - Planning Meeting  
 Jan 28 - General Meeting  
 Feb 7 - Pancake Breakfast

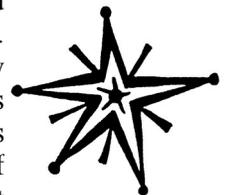


**IS THREE OR FOUR A SACRED NUMBER?**

For the ancient Jew, the most sacred number for them was SEVEN. However the numbers THREE and FOUR were also sacred. A couple of thousand years have passed and numbers are still important in religion, in Christianity and Catholicism to be exact. I know of many people who claim that when they read the bulletin, the first thing that they look at (*and sometimes the only thing that they look at*) is the financial income. (*Would our desire to first read about the finances rather than the pastor's comments on matters of faith say more about us than what the bulletin can convey?*)



A good number of you have asked how our attendance was for Christmas. In fact, even the Diocese wants to know of every church in the Diocese how Mass attendance is at Christmas. So, the ushers were required to count (to the best of their ability) how many people were at each Mass. Some 1,500 people attended the four Masses of Christmas alone, with more than 750 at the 4:00 pm. I am grateful to the 4:00 pm ushers who were quick and efficient in setting up chairs (as last year we did not need them) and we began only a few minutes after 4:00 pm. All the other Masses were also very well attended, so that we will need to continue in the future the FOUR Masses for Christmas as opposed to our regular THREE weekend Masses.



By all accounts, it appears that our attendance for Christmas dramatically increased from last year. I shudder spiritually to think if the shortage of priests continues and in the future we were yoked by the Diocese to an additional parish(es), how would we accommodate all of the faithful?

-Father

**RESERVED SEATING AT MARCH FOR LIFE PRAYER SERVICE – BISHOP LEVOIR PRESIDING**

On January 22, 2016, once again the March for Life and prayer service at the Cathedral of St. Paul will mark the Roe vs. Wade decision that legalized abortion in the United States. This year Bishop LeVoir will be presiding at the prayer service. As in the past, there will be reserved seating for the youth of our diocese that are attending. Please contact Janelle Boyum at 507-233-5319, jboyum@dnu.org , by January 11<sup>th</sup> to reserve a spot.

**AMISTAD**

Are you interested in preventing human trafficking in your community? The Amistad Movement is a national education campaign that works to empower immigrants and local leaders to prevent human trafficking in their communities. You are invited to an Amistad Movement training session at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Willmar, MN, on Wednesday, February 17, 2015, from 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm. To Register: (507) 233-5318 or pkral@dnu.org. *Sponsored by the USCCB and the Diocese of New Ulm*

**2016 MCCL MARCH FOR LIFE**

Come to the Minnesota State Capitol on Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> to join others across our state to pray for justice. The 2016 Minnesota Citizens Concerned For Life March is the 42nd annual commemoration of Roe v Wade and the Doe V. Bolton, the infamous 1973 Supreme Court decision that overturned every pro-life law across the nation and imposed abortion on demand throughout all nine months of pregnancy. A bus will be arriving at 7:45 am in the St. Peter & Paul's church parking lot, leaving promptly at 8:00 am on that day. If you wish to take this bus call Tom at 507-381-2544 to reserve your seat. Suggested cost is \$20 and or a free will offering. A beverage and treat will be included in this cost; bring a bag lunch if you wish. Approximate return time to Mankato is 3:00 pm.

**BULLETIN CHANGES**

Holy Rosary is regretful to announce that Paragon Printing has made the final decision that it is no longer feasible for them to continue offering their services to Holy Rosary effective January 1, 2016. We appreciate their support of our Church for many years and are saddened that we will no longer be able to continue to have our bulletin printed locally. We have looked at many possibilities and are happy to say that we believe we have found a wonderful partner in Liturgical Publications who currently publish the bulletin for many major churches in the Archdiocese, Winona Diocese and New Ulm Diocese. Please consider advertising in our new bulletin since the revenue from the ads is what will make our new bulletin possible and at no cost to the parish.



Advertisements can be purchased for a business, family or a sponsor ad can be purchased supporting community service organizations like emergency pregnancy or the battered women's shelter, etc. Please give these ideas some thought. We appreciate your help.

If you are interested or want more information, please contact our Sponsor Ad Representatives Bud Bien at 952-852-4046 or John Kirchner at 952-852-4029. You may also call the parish office at 507-387-6501 on the week of January 4<sup>th</sup>. Bud and/or John will be more than happy to help you. Again -Thank you for your past and continued support, we do appreciate it very much.

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER**

Diocesan United Fund (D.U.F.) Diocesan Priest Pension Fund/ Medical, Care Comp Ins, and Priest Care Fund:

Pd. to Date: \$ 37,441.98  
DUE: \$ 65,081.69

Annual Diocesan Ministries Appeal (D.M.A.):

Rec'd. to Date: \$ 22,840.00  
Recommended: \$ 36,988.48

Loyola Catholic School "Investment":

Pd. to Date: \$ 105,000.00  
DUE: \$ 234,000.00

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**Total Paid to Date 2015-16: \$ 165,281.98**  
**Apostolate stewardship for 2015-16: \$ 336,070.17**

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This week we contributed another \$5,000.00 to our stewardship commitment to the Loyola Catholic School system, bringing us to a total offering to \$105,000.00. **At this point, we have surpassed our stewardship contributions to the school from last year by \$30,000.00.** It is through your generosity that we are able to keep out stewardship commitments. Thank you for this.

Our D.M.A. appeal is continuing. The goal that the Diocese established at \$36,988.48. **To date we have taken in \$22,840.00 or 62% of the Diocesan goal.** Every dollar that you give this year to the D.M.A. will result in 80 cents going to the Diocese of New Ulm and 20 cents back to the parish. Even if we exceed our goal, the contributed monies will still be divided out 80/20, with the 80% going to the Diocese and 20% to Holy Rosary. Thank you for your support.

**FR. ED ARDOLF ENDOWMENT FUND**

This fund is now at \$161,609.00. 85% of the earnings of this fund go to pay tuition at Loyola Catholic School for Holy Rosary families. Contributions to this fund may be dropped off at the parish office or sent to the Loyola Advancement Office (145 Good Counsel Dr., Mankato, MN 56001)

**COLLECTION FOR ECHO FOOD SHELF**

Let us continue in the spirit of Generosity and Mercy, by bringing a donation for the Echo Food Shelf next weekend. This time of year they tell us that what they most need are the following:



- Personal Care Products (shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, etc)
- Cleaning Products (laundry soap, dish soap, etc)
- Paper Products (paper towels, napkins, toilet paper)

THANK YOU for your generosity - we can make a difference! Watch for the boxes at the doors on the weekend of January 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>.

**DONATE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS**

Are you looking to recycle some of your Christmas decorations this year? We would be happy to take your donated decorations for our Christmas Shoppe at next years November Fest(ival). Please drop off your donation at the parish office during office hours (Mon-Fri from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm). If you have any questions, please contact Rachel Helget at helget18@gmail.com.

**RIVERBEND TEC RETREAT**

The next Riverbend TEC retreat weekend is scheduled for January 16-18, 2016 at Holy Trinity Church in Winsted. Registration forms are available from your parish or by contacting Riverbend TEC at 507-829-2412. Application forms can also be downloaded from www.riverbendtec.org. There is a great 5 minute informational video available on this Web site.

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

On **Sunday, January 24, 2016**, Christians throughout south-central Minnesota are being invited to come together for an Ecumenical Celebration of the Word of God. This prayer service is being held in observance of the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and will take place at **First Presbyterian Church in Redwood Falls beginning at 2:00 pm.** (235 East 4th Street, Redwood Falls) All are invited to attend!



**2016 PARISH CALENDARS**

The **2016 Calendars** are available in the Church Entrances. These calendars feature the official Roman Catholic liturgical calendar for the United States including solemnities and feasts! (One per family, please.)



**WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKENDS**

Start the new year out right – spend some quality time renewing your marriage. The next **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends** are Feb 12-14, 2016 in Windom, MN and Apr 15-17, 2016 in Hutchinson, MN. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at: [southmnwwme.org](http://southmnwwme.org) or contact John & Mary Beth at [applications@southmnwwme.org](mailto:applications@southmnwwme.org) or 507-838-8178.



**MAKE IT SNOW!**



Three Kings came riding from far away,  
Melchior and Gaspar and Baltasar;  
Three Wise Men out of the East were they,  
And they travelled by night and they slept by day,  
For their guide was a beautiful, wonderful star.

The star was so beautiful, large and clear,  
That all the other stars of the sky  
Became a white mist in the atmosphere,  
And by this they knew that the coming was near  
Of the Prince foretold in the prophecy.

Three caskets they bore on their saddle-bows,  
Three caskets of gold with golden keys;  
Their robes were of crimson silk with rows  
Of bells and pomegranates and furbelows,  
Their turbans like blossoming almond-trees.

And so the Three Kings rode into the West,  
Through the dusk of the night, over hill and dell,  
And sometimes they nodded with beard on breast,  
And sometimes talked, as they paused to rest,  
With the people they met at some wayside well.

"Of the child that is born," said Baltasar,  
"Good people, I pray you, tell us the news;  
For we in the East have seen his star,  
And have ridden fast, and have ridden far,  
To find and worship the King of the Jews."

And the people answered, "You ask in vain;  
We know of no King but Herod the Great!"  
They thought the Wise Men were men insane,  
As they spurred their horses across the plain,  
Like riders in haste, who cannot wait.

And when they came to Jerusalem,  
Herod the Great, who had heard this thing,  
Sent for the Wise Men and questioned them;  
And said, "Go down unto Bethlehem,  
And bring me tidings of this new king."

So they rode away; and the star stood still,  
The only one in the grey of morn;  
Yes, it stopped --it stood still of its own free will,  
Right over Bethlehem on the hill,  
The city of David, where Christ was born.

And the Three Kings rode through the gate and the guard,  
Through the silent street, till their horses turned  
And neighed as they entered the great inn-yard;  
But the windows were closed, and the doors were barred,  
And only a light in the stable burned.

And cradled there in the scented hay,  
In the air made sweet by the breath of kine,  
The little child in the manger lay,  
The child, that would be king one day  
Of a kingdom not human, but divine.

His mother Mary of Nazareth  
Sat watching beside his place of rest,  
Watching the even flow of his breath,  
For the joy of life and the terror of death  
Were mingled together in her breast.

They laid their offerings at his feet:  
The gold was their tribute to a King,  
The frankincense, with its odor sweet,  
Was for the Priest, the Paraclete,  
The myrrh for the body's burying.

And the mother wondered and bowed her head,  
And sat as still as a statue of stone,  
Her heart was troubled yet comforted,  
Remembering what the Angel had said  
Of an endless reign and of David's throne.

Then the Kings rode out of the city gate,  
With a clatter of hoofs in proud array;  
But they went not back to Herod the Great,  
For they knew his malice and feared his hate,  
And returned to their homes by another way.

- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

