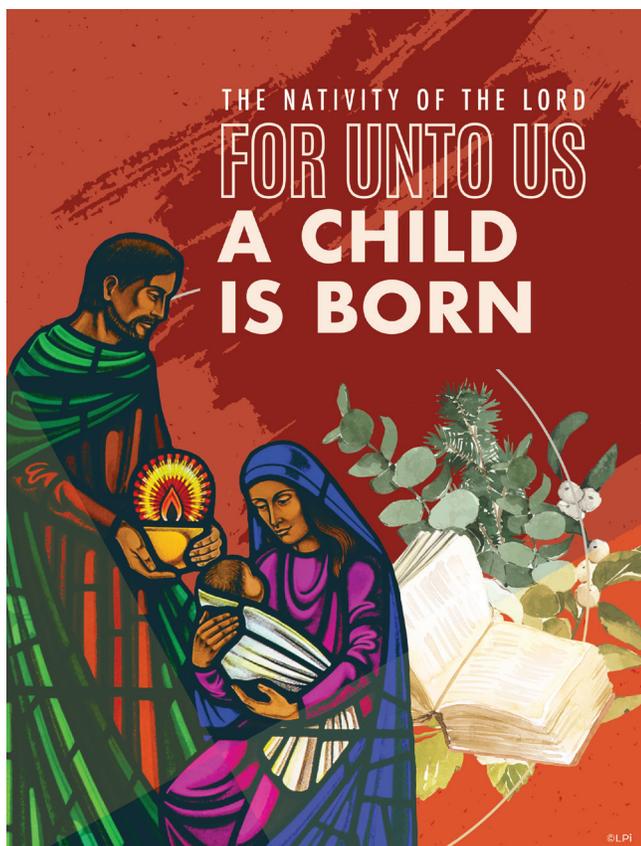


*Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord  
December 25, 2022  
Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God  
January 1, 2023*



**Live the Liturgy - Inspiration for the Week**

The true meaning of Christmas is not found in the twinkling lights, the beautifully adorned trees, or the exchanged gifts. It is revealed when we find God along the way of our lives, especially when we feel displaced, desperate, and alone. Fleeing from their home, Joseph and Mary cautiously made their way through the uncertain, complex, and dark paths to a longed-for place of safety and welcome. Not sure where to lay their heads, they created makeshift preparations for the birth of their child, the Son of God. God, who always was, is, and will be, without beginning or end is the one constant in life who sees us through difficult and scary times. Jesus is the light, which enlightens everyone, and comes into the world to show us the truth. It is joyful good news that calms our fears and allows us to go forth into the nighttime of our lives, courageously. This is the meaning of Christmas. We are never lost or alone. God is with us, loving us and leading us where we need to be. ©LPi

**Liturgy Schedule**

Saturday 5:00 p.m.  
 Sunday 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.  
 Monday-Thursday 5:00 p.m.

**Reconciliation**

Wed & Sat 4:00 p.m.



**Dec 24 - January 8**

Sat	4:00 pm	Elly Kozlowski
	6:00 pm	Parishioners of St Paul's
	10:00 pm	Kermit Brown
Sun	10:00 am	Edin Vaske
Mon	5:00 pm	no intention
Tues	5:00 pm	no intention
Wed	5:00 pm	no intention
Thurs	5:00 pm	Copozza family
Sat	5:00 pm	no intention
Sun	8:30 am	no intention
	11:00 am	Kay Tencick

**January 2 - 5**

Liturgy of the Word will be prayed while Fr. Rob is on vacation.

*(The 5:00 p.m. Sunday Liturgy returns Jan. 15, 2023)*

**New to our Parish?**

Whether you are new to Laramie or new to our community, we welcome and invite you to stop by the office weekdays, Monday - Thursday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m. for membership information or go [here](#) to signup.

**Christmas Office Schedule**

Parish Offices are closed Monday - Wednesday, December 26 - 28 and Monday, January 2. Due to minimal staff being on site December 26 - 30, the building will be open limited hours as well. We wish you a restful and joyous Christmas.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Resident SEARCH retreat, February 24 - 26 at the Vee-Bar Ranch.**

## Upcoming Events

### Family Faith Formation

Sunday, December 18 at 9:45 a.m.

### Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God

January 1 at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.



### Liturgical Ministers

The schedule for December 17 through January 15 schedule has not been preassigned.

This means we are heavily relying on your generosity and willingness to help fill empty positions. To see the full schedule and to volunteer, log in to the Web Terminal at:

<https://tinyurl.com/5yndfa6r>

### Chancery Office Position Openings

The Chancery Office for the Diocese of Cheyenne has two job openings:

#### •Accountant •Director of Pastoral Formation

Application, Letter of Interest, and a Résumé may be sent by mail, e-mail, online, or in-person to: Tammy Skala, Executive Director of Parish Services (Human Resources), Diocese of Cheyenne, 2121 Capitol Ave, Cheyenne, WY 82001, [tskala@dcwy.org](mailto:tskala@dcwy.org). Tel.: 307-638-1530. Find all information on the webpage [here](#).



Mary, Mother of God

### Live the Liturgy:

#### Inspiration for the Week

The shepherds returned from Bethlehem "glorifying and praising God." They were affected deeply by the sight of the infant Messiah and the message of the angels. What would the world look like, if

we allowed ourselves to be likewise impacted by the word of God? ©LPi

"What do you have that has not been given to you by God?"

To date, **109** of us have pledged **\$309,775.00!** If you have not yet made a pledge, please pick up a card and fill it out today or pledge via our website [here](#).



Living in God's Abundance

### Staff (307)745-5461

#### Pastor: Fr. Rob Spaulding

ext. #105 [rob@newmancenter.org](mailto:rob@newmancenter.org)

#### Coordinator of Pastoral Ministry: Lillie Rodgers

ext. #104 [lillie@newmancenter.org](mailto:lillie@newmancenter.org)

#### Director of Music Ministry: Sara Engle

ext. #101 [music@newmancenter.org](mailto:music@newmancenter.org)

#### Communications Coordinator: Myra Belser

ext. #106 [myra@newmancenter.org](mailto:myra@newmancenter.org)

#### Administrative Assistant: Brenna Fankell

ext. #102 [brenna@newmancenter.org](mailto:brenna@newmancenter.org)

#### Business Manager: Crystal Bennett

ext. #103 [accounting@newmancenter.org](mailto:accounting@newmancenter.org)

#### Service & Outreach: Sandy Rupp

ext. #112 [rupp@newmancenter.org](mailto:rupp@newmancenter.org)

#### Campus Ministry: Max Lube

ext. #111 [max@newmancenter.org](mailto:max@newmancenter.org)

#### Facility Manager: Mike Morin

ext. #110 [mike@newmancenter.org](mailto:mike@newmancenter.org)

**Electronic Giving:** Consider one of these easy and convenient options to give online:

Click the "DONATE NOW" button on the home page of our website, [newmancenter.org](http://newmancenter.org). You can quickly and easily make a credit card donation through **SimpleGive** or set up a monthly automatic withdrawal from your bank account. To learn more about these options, contact Crystal at [accounting@newmancenter.org](mailto:accounting@newmancenter.org)



### A New Year's Resolution

For those of you who wish to carry on the practice of eliminating hurry and bringing a more peaceful lifestyle into the New Year as outlined by John Mark Comer, here are two videos that give insight on the importance of Silence and Sabbath.

*Silence/Solitude* (49min): click [here](#).

*Sabbath* (36min): click [here](#).



# Bringing Home the Word

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) (A)  
December 25, 2022

## The Gift that Gives Forever

By Ron Rolheiser, OMI

The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord” (Luke 2:10–11).

The fact of a savior born for us does not bring us immediate festive joy. Our world remains wounded; wars, selfishness, and bitterness linger. Our hearts remain wounded; pain lingers. For a Christian, just as for everyone else, there will be incompleteness, illness, death, senseless hurt, broken dreams, cold, hunger, lonely days of bitterness, and a lifetime of longing.

The Incarnation does not promise heaven on earth. It promises heaven in heaven. Here on earth, it promises us something else—God’s presence in our lives. This presence redeems because knowing that God is with us is what ultimately empowers us to give up bitterness, to forgive, and to move beyond cynicism and bitterness. When God is with us, then pain and happiness are not mutually exclusive, and the agonies and riddles of life do not exclude deep meaning and deep joy.

We need to celebrate Christmas heartily. Maybe we won’t feel the same excitement we once felt as children—when we were excited about tinsel, lights, Christmas carols, and special gifts and special food. But something more important is still available, namely the sense that God is with us in our lives, in our joys as well as in our shortcomings.

The word was made flesh. That is an incredible thing. It should be celebrated with tinsel, lights, and songs of joy. If we understand Christmas, then carols will flow naturally from our lips. +

This article is an excerpt from the *Daybreaks* series, published by Liguori Publications for the seasons of Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter. Fr. Ron Rolheiser has authored several in this series of seasonal devotionals. To learn more and review our complete list of *Daybreaks* authors, visit [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org).

## Sunday Readings

### Isaiah 52:7–10

All the ends of the earth can see / the salvation of our God.

### Hebrews 1:1–6

[God] spoke to us through a son, whom he made heir of all things and through whom he created the universe.

### John 1:1–18 or 1:1–5, 9–14

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

## A Word from Pope Francis

The power of this Child, Son of God and Son of Mary, is not the power of this world, based on might and wealth; it is the power of love. It is the power that gives new birth, forgives sin, reconciles enemies, and transforms evil into good. It is the power of God.

URBI ET ORBI, ROME,  
DECEMBER 25, 2019



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

### QUESTIONS REFLECTION

- What blessings have I received today?
- How can I be a blessing to someone else?

# The Gift of Love and the Value of Thanks

By Paige Byrne Shortal

**D**id you come to church today to please someone else? Perhaps your parents or grandparents or your spouse? Whether you came willingly or under pressure, I hope I'm not being presumptuous when I acknowledge your gift. Coming to church to make someone else happy is an act of love, and you might be giving them their favorite Christmas present.

I'm a convert and find myself fascinated by people who grew up in the Church and then stopped going to Mass. I tend to ask them a lot of personal questions: What takes the place of church for you? Who do you pray to? What do you use as a guide when you make moral choices? If you have children, how will you teach them right from wrong? Who (or what) will you turn to if you are suffering or someone you love is suffering? What gives you meaning and purpose in this life?

Paul Tillich said there are no atheists; that we all make something or someone our god. We must just make sure our god is one who is worthy of the investment of our lives. Today the Christian community celebrates the birth of God, who promises an abundant return on our investment.

I've learned that it's possible to grow up going to church and still not know much about Jesus. A priest friend admitted he didn't really know Jesus until he was in the last years of preparing for ordination. He decided he'd better do



something about it so he sat down and read the Gospel of Matthew straight through. I decided I wanted to do the same. Be warned! This is life-changing stuff.

On a lighter note, here's a true story from my husband's family. There were two older relatives who attended Midnight Mass after many years away from the Church. One whispered, "Hey, that's a woman reading up there." And the other responded, "Yeah, and either that's English or my Latin is better than I thought."

\*\*\*

After my oldest had been on his own for a while, he called one night to tell me he had discovered he could not sit down to a nice meal without saying Grace. He

didn't want to say the traditional "Bless us, O Lord..." but he did feel the need to say "thank you."

Later, a month or so after Christmas, I began to get the calls: "Did he get the package, the check? I haven't heard from him." So I called him and suggested that while thank-you notes did require more organization than exists in the lives of most young bachelors, they are part of a "Grace Way of Life." You don't eat thanks, wear it, use it, or spend it before you say it—"thank you"—to the giver.

What do I want my last words to be? Not "Give me more!" or "Not fair!" or "No!" I would like to be the kind of person whose last words are simply: "Thank You."

Merry Christmas. +

***On Christmas, we celebrate  
the birth of God, who  
promises an abundant  
return on our investment.***

**PRAYER**

***Lord Jesus, so that there may  
be peace among the nations,  
within communities and families,  
and in our hearts,  
we pray—Be born in us,  
be born in our world.***

The Redemptorists

## WEEKDAY READINGS

December 26–31

**Monday, St. Stephen:**  
Acts 6:8–10; 7:54–59 / Mt 10:17–22

**Tuesday, St. John:**  
1 Jn 1:1–4 / Jn 20:1a, 2–8

**Wednesday, Holy Innocents:**  
1 Jn 1:5–2:2 / Mt 2:13–18

**Thursday, Octave of Christmas:**  
1 Jn 2:3–11/Lk 2:22–35

**Friday, Holy Family:** Sir 3:2–6, 12–14 or  
Col 3:12–21 or 3:12–17 / Mt 2:13–15, 19–23

**Saturday, Octave of Christmas:**  
1 Jn 2:18–21 / Jn 1:1–18

Bringing Home  
the **Word**   
December 25, 2022

© 2022 Liguori Publications, a ministry of the Redemptorists. One Liguori Drive, Liguori, MO 63057. Scripture quotations in this publication are from the *New American Bible*, revised edition, © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, DC. The Pope Francis quotation is used with permission and copyright © 2022 *Libreria Editrice Vaticana*. All rights reserved. 1-800-325-9521. Liguori.org.