

Of Seeds and Flowers

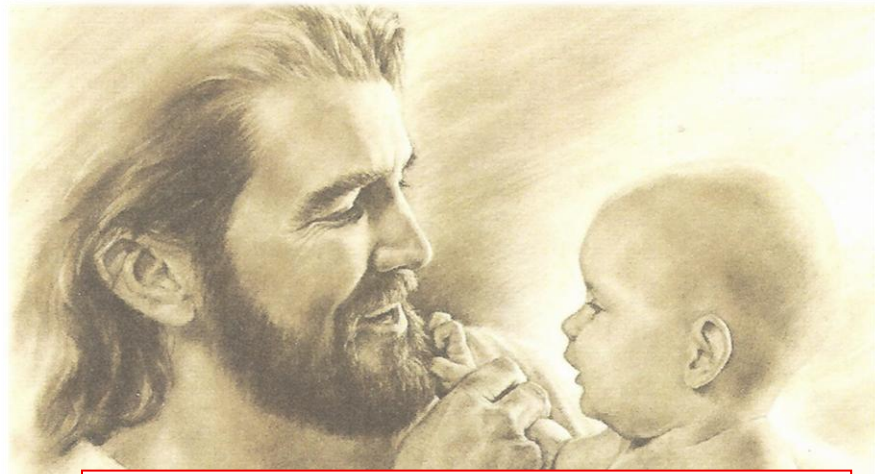
Volume 42 Issue 12 - Founded in 1982

December 2025

William R. Pfeiffer - Director

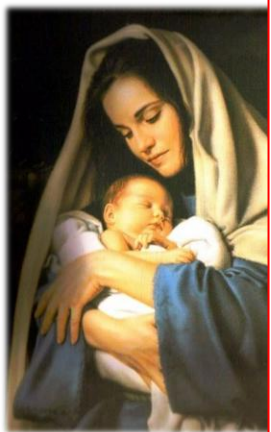
Mary's Field, Ltd. - PO Box 99 - Hebron, CT 06248 - 860.424.1912 - wisdom@marysfield.org

MERRY CHRISTMAS



"I was the first tabernacle. The Holy Body grew within me

first." Mary spoke these words to the visionaries at Medjugorje. Mary also told the visionaries that if they ever find themselves having to choose between seeing her in an apparition, or celebrating the Eucharist, they should ALWAYS CHOOSE MASS. Go to Church



"Make ready for Christ the Savior", shouts Thomas Merton, "whose smile, like lightning, sets free the song of everlasting glory that now sleeps in your paper flesh; like dynamite." WOW!!!



It began with the simple cry of a baby...And grew into a shout of good news that echoed through the ages... Christ is born! - anew in your heart?

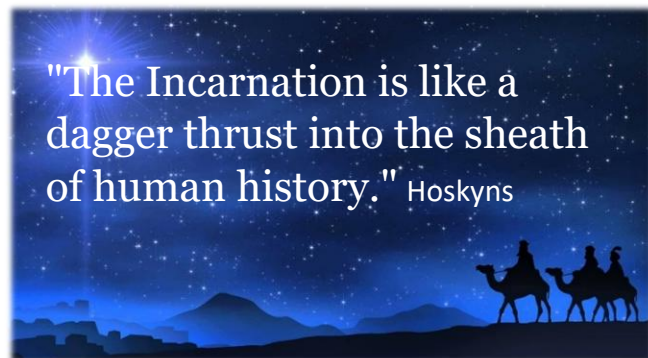
Sharon's Christmas Prayer - JOHN SHEA

She was five, sure of the facts. and recited them with slow solemnity convinced every word was revelation. She said they were so poor they had only peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to eat and they went a long way from home without getting lost.

The lady rode a donkey. The man walked and the baby was inside the lady. They had to stay in a stable with an ox and an ass (hee-hee) but the Three Rich Men found them because a star lited the roof. Shepherds came and you could pet the sheep but not feed them. Then the baby got borned. And do you know who he was? Her quarter eyes inflated to silver dollars. The baby was God And she jumped in the air whirled round, dove into the sofa and buried her head under the cushion which is the only proper response to the Good News of the Incarnation.

The wonder of Christmas is that the God who dwelt among us now can dwell within us. The fire inside us comes from the way God made us, namely, TO CRAVE THE INFINITE AND to keep everything else in its proper place.

"The Incarnation is like a dagger thrust into the sheath of human history." Hoskyns



80 YEARS AGO!! A CHRISTMAS PRAYER The following Christmas prayer was delivered by a U. S. Senate Chaplain, Peter Marshall on Dec. 19, 1947 in the U. S. Senate, addressed to a victorious nation recovering from World War II. This prayer could have been prayed yesterday!



"We thank thee, O God, for the return of the wondrous spell of this Christmas season that brings its own sweet joy into our jaded and troubled hearts.

Forbid it, Lord, that we should celebrate without understanding what we celebrate, or, like our counterparts so long ago, fail to see the star or to hear the song of glorious promise.

As our hearts yield to the spirit of Christmas, may we discover that it is Thy Holy Spirit who comes-not a sentiment but a power- to remind us of the only way by which there may be peace on earth and good will among men.

May we not spend Christmas, but keep it, that we may be kept in its hope, through Him who emptied Himself in coming to us that we might be filled with peace and joy in returning to God. Amen".



"The hint half guessed, the gift half understood, is Incarnation."

T. S. Eliot

Are you
PART OF THE
INN CROWD
or are you one
OF THE **STABLE FEW?**

If you look for me at Christmas,
You won't need a special star.
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem,
I'm right there where you are.
You may not be aware of Me,
Amid the celebrations.
You'll have to look beyond the stores,
And all the decorations.
But if you take a moment,
From your list of things to do,
And listen to your heart, you'll find
I'm waiting there for you.
You're the one I want to be with,
You're the reason that I came.
And you'll find Me in the stillness,
As I'm whispering your name.

love,
Jesus

CHRISTMAS THE SEASON OF LIGHT

THE FOUR STAGES OF LIFE

1. You believe in Santa Claus
2. You don't believe in Santa Claus
3. You are Santa Claus
4. You look like Santa Claus

Then God said, "Let there be **LIGHT**," and there was **LIGHT**. God saw how good the **LIGHT WAS**." (Genesis 1)

**Mary's Field -
always Good
News!!!**

"Too often we are like blind people touching the side of an elephant describing the tiny portion we feel with all of the emotion and conviction we can muster up." – Richard Rohr



"Lord, what made you so small?" And St. Bernard of Clairvaux's ecstatic response was, "It was love!"



Scientists have discovered that what looks like darkness to the human eye is actually filled with tiny particles called “neutrinos,” slivers of light that pass through the entire universe. Apparently, there is no such thing as total darkness anywhere, even though the human eye thinks there is. John’s Gospel was more accurate than we realized when it described Christ as “A Light that darkness cannot overcome.” and in Genesis 1:4., “God saw that Light was good”

Remember, light is not so much what you see directly as that by which you see everything else. That is why in John’s Gospel Jesus makes the almost boastful statement, “I am the light of the world 8:12. Indeed, JESUS IS THE LIGHT by which we see and understand everything else, if we can get our ego out of the way. The world around us is both the HIDING PLACE AND THE REVELATION OF GOD. HOLD ON TO THAT! - “The Universal Christ” - Richard Rohr



“Whatever came to be in him, found life, life for the LIGHT OF MEN. The LIGHT shines on in darkness, a LIGHT THAT DARKNESS CANNOT OVERCOME” (John 1:4-5) Irony, isn’t it? There is no pure darkness.

“Here, then, is the message we have heard from Jesus and announce to you: that GOD IS LIGHT: in HIM there is no darkness,” (1 John 1:5)



“I am the light of the world. NO FOLLOWER of mine shall ever walk in darkness; no, he shall possess the LIGHT OF LIFE.” (John. 8:12) Why are we always creating SUBSTITUTE, IDOLS FOR GOD?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL LOVE. WE ARE MOST GRATEFUL FOR ALL OF YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT YOUR PRAYERS AND CARDS, YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT. I WANTED TO SEND EACH OF YOU A CHRISTMAS CARD THIS YEAR BUT LIFE HAS HAD ITS OWN WAY! SORRY!!

MERRY CHRISTMAS! Cindy and Bill

‘To His own He came yet His own did not accept Him. Any (ANY) who did accept Him He EMPOWERED to become CHILDREN OF GOD. John, 1: 12. Your DNA is God’s DNA!!

AN EASY BUT EFFECTIVE PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS IS: Listen, really listen closely to the words of the traditional Christmas Carols. Reflect on the words, let them become REAL, ALIVE IN YOUR HEART AND LEAD YOU TO A God response.

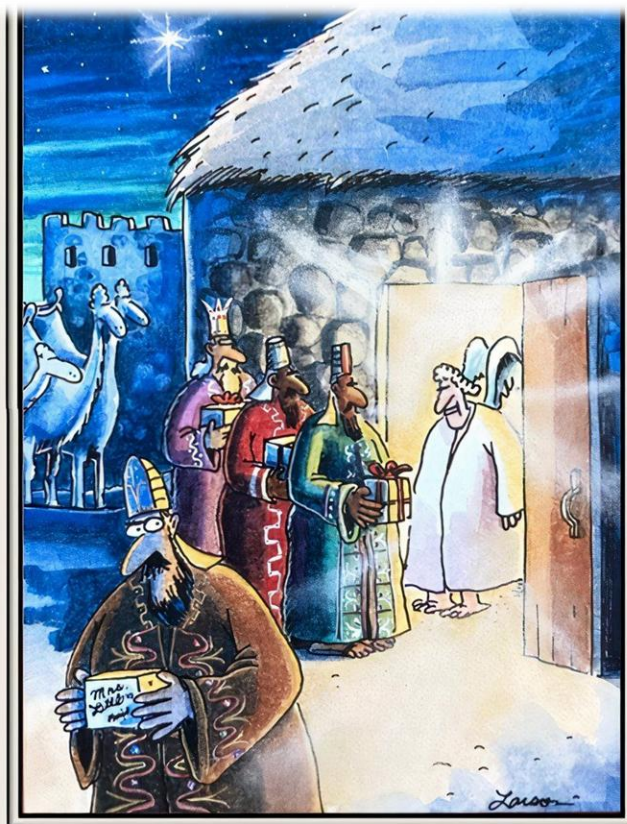
“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Men do not light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket. They set it on a stand where it gives light to all in the house. In the same way your light must shine before men so that they may see goodness in your acts and give praise to your heavenly Father.” (Matthew 5:13) **LIGHT, light EVERYWHERE!!!**

He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree.
~Roy L. Smith

What can I give Him, Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man I would do my part;
Yet what I can, I give Him - Give my heart.

Thinking is difficult, that's why most people judge.

Jesus was an unplanned pregnancy! Mary was an unwed mother! I wonder what Planned UN-PARENTHOOD of Nazareth would have encouraged?



Unbeknownst to most theologians, there was a fourth wiseman, who was turned away for bringing a fruitcake.



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