

The Nativity of the Lord

Vigil Mass

Isaiah 62:1-5
Acts 13:16-17,22-25
Matthew 1:1-25

Midnight Mass

Isaiah 9:1-6
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14

Daytime Mass

Isaiah 52:7-10
Hebrews 1:1-6
John 1:1-18

Monday December 26

St. Stephen

Acts 6:8-10;7:54-59
Ps 31:3-4,6,8ab,16bc,17
Matthew 10:17-22

Tuesday December 27

St. John

1 John 1:1-4
Ps 97:1-2,5-6,11-12
John 20:1a,2-8

Wednesday December 28

Holy Innocents

1 John 1:5--2:2
Ps 124:2-5,7b-8
Matthew 2:13-18

Thursday December 29

1 John 2:3-11
Ps 96:1-3,5b-6
Luke 2:22-35

Friday December 30

Holy Family

Sirach 3:2-6,12-14
or Colossians 3:12-21
Ps 128:1-5
Matthew 2:13-15,19-23

Saturday December 31

1 John 2:18-21
Ps 96:1-2,11-13
John 1:1-18

Joy to the world! This is our song. This is what we should always be proclaiming as a people of faith.

Don't focus on what destroys your joy, for nothing can destroy the coming of the Lord. The absence of joy is merely a blank area in your view of what God is doing.

Look at the love that Jesus has for you! Jesus was born not only to save you from the darkness of sin; he was born because he loves you -- he loves YOU! Even if you had never sinned, he would have come into the world so that he could love *you* on your level, human-to-human.

Sometimes, great things come in surprising packages that do not seem to be great at all. The Eucharist -- in the form of a little wafer of bread -- does not look like it contains the full presence of Jesus with all of his humanity and his divinity. The baby Jesus -- a tiny, helpless child -- does not look like the conqueror of evil. But he is! And so is Jesus in the Eucharist; he is here for you.

And you! You might not seem to be a great person, but you contain Jesus. You contain greatness beyond imagining! This greatness does not dwell only in you; it comes out from



you in every good thing that you do. This is a life of faith!

To be a follower of Jesus means we learn to imitate him. In doing good, evil is defeated. In this goodness, the greatness of Jesus extends outward from us. In this goodness, there is cause for great joy.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. How much do you *really* believe that Jesus loves you? What are some examples of Jesus taking good care of you?
2. How do you reveal the love of Jesus to others?
3. When was the first time you can remember experiencing the love of Jesus and realized that it was a gift from God?
4. What does the Eucharist mean to you? How can it change you so that you leave church ready to give the love of Christ to others?

Merry Christmas! Be very blessed this Christmas season -- because Jesus is delightedly in love with you! You are invited to experience the extravagant love of Jesus all year.