

Christmas: unto you this day The Savior is born!
EMMANUEL, "Rejoicing in The LORD's Great Mercy"
by Saint Pope John Paul II (1920 - 2005 AD)



https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=6996

"Say to those who are fearful of heart: "Be strong, fear not! Behold, your GOD will come and save you..."

ISAIAH 35:4

Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your GOD will come with vengeance, even GOD with a recompence; He will come and save you.

It becomes more urgent as Christmas approaches, enriched with the exhortation to prepare our hearts to welcome The MESSIAH.

The One awaited by the people will certainly come and His salvation will be for all. On The Holy Night, we will again recall His Birth in Bethlehem; in a certain sense, we will relive the feelings of the shepherds, their joy and their wonder:

With Mary and Joseph, we will contemplate The Glory of The Word made Flesh for our redemption. We will pray that all men may accept the new life that The Son of Man brought into the world.

The liturgy of Advent, filled with constant allusions to the joyful expectation of The MESSIAH, helps us to understand the fullness of the value and meaning of The Mystery of Christmas.

It is not just about commemorating The Historical Event which occurred some two thousand years ago in a little village of Judea. Instead, we must understand that our whole life should be an Advent in vigilant expectation of CHRIST's Final Coming.

To prepare our hearts to welcome The Lord Who will come one day to judge the living and the dead, we must learn to recognize His Presence in the events of daily life.

Advent is then a period of intense training that directs us decisively to The One Who has already come, Who will come, and Who continuously comes.

With these sentiments, The Church prepares to contemplate in ecstasy The Mystery of The Incarnation. The Gospel recounts The Conception and Birth of JESUS, and reports the many providential circumstances that preceded and surrounded such a Miraculous Event:

The angel's Annunciation to Mary, the birth of John The Baptist, the choir of angels in Bethlehem, the arrival of the Magi from the East, Saint Joseph's visions.

There is John The Baptist, the precursor of The MESSIAH, who is presented as "a voice crying in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins."

LUKE 3:3-4

3 And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins;

4 As it is written in The Book of The Words of Esaias the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of The LORD, make His paths straight. [ISAIAH 40:3]

It is the only condition for recognizing The MESSIAH.

Finally, Mary - The Woman of the "yes" who, contrary to Eve, makes The Plan of GOD her own without reservation.

LUKE 1:38

And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of The LORD; be it unto me according to Thy Word. And the angel departed from her.

Thus she becomes a clear light for our steps and the highest model for our inspiration." * JESUS, Mary and Joseph, pray for us! Amen.

LUKE 2:1-17

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gdDeFgXXG-s>

- 1 And it came to pass, that in those days there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that the whole world should be enrolled.
- 2 This enrolling was first made by Cyrinus, the governor of Syria.
- 3 And all went to be enrolled, every one into his own city.
- 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem: because he was of the house and family of David,
- 5 To be enrolled with Mary his espoused wife, who was with child.
- 6 And it came to pass, that when they were there, her days were accomplished, that she should be delivered.
- 7 And she brought forth her Firstborn Son, and wrapped him up in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.
- 8 And there were in the same country shepherds watching, and keeping the night watches over their flock.
- 9 And behold an angel of The LORD stood by them, and The Brightness of GOD shone round about them; and they feared with a great fear.
- 10 And the angel said to them: Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, that shall be to all the people:
- 11 For, this day, is born to you a Saviour, Who is CHRIST The Lord, in the city of David.
- 12 And this shall be a sign unto you. You shall find The Infant wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger.
- 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly army, praising GOD, and saying:
- 14 Glory to GOD in the highest; and on earth peace to men of good will.

15 And it came to pass, after the angels departed from them into Heaven, the shepherds said one to another: Let us go over to Bethlehem, and let us see This Word that is come to pass, which The LORD hath shewed to us.

16 And they came with haste; and they found Mary and Joseph, and The Infant lying in the manger.

17 And seeing, they understood of The Word that had been spoken to them concerning This Child.

*["Rejoicing at The LORD's Great Mercy." Saint John Paul II. The Magnificat, 12/23/2021 AD. Meditation of the Day, p 334-335.]