

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR CHRISTMAS WEEK

Our commitment to daily prayer using the weekday Mass readings as our guide

MONDAY 12/26

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59
Matthew 10:17-22

TUESDAY 12/27

First John 1:1-4
John 20:2-8

WEDNESDAY 12/28

First John 1:5--2:2
Matthew 2:13-18

THURSDAY 12/29

First John 2:3-11
Luke 2:22-35

FRIDAY 12/30

Sir 3:2-14; Col 3:12-21
Luke 2:22-40

SATURDAY 12/31

First John 2:18-21
John 1:1-18

Feasts, Solemnities, and Memorials This Week:

Monday, Stephen; Tuesday, John; Wednesday, Holy Innocents; Thursday, Thomas Becket; Friday, The Holy Family; Saturday, Sylvester I

LEE VINING CHRISTMAS WREATH SALE

Congratulations to our Lee Vining High School student athletes for the amazing work they did making Christmas wreaths and selling them to earn money for their church and their school athletic program. Sales of the wreaths generated a whopping \$3,300, of which \$460 was spent on materials, \$970 has been generously donated to Our Savior of the Mountains mission for the repair of Saint Mary's Grotto, and \$1,870 goes to the Lee Vining High School athletic program, which is funded in its entirety by private donations. Well done, LVHS student athletes! Go Tigers!

PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Confirmation preparation class begins on Wednesday, January 4, and will meet every Wednesday evening in the classroom in the back of the church until the end of May. This class is for anyone high school aged or beyond who has been baptized and has received First Holy Communion. To register, call Kathy Cage at 760-934-4688.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS & EUCHARISTIC DEVOTION

Every First Friday of the month beginning at 7:00 PM in St. Joseph Church, Mammoth Lakes.

PRAYERS

Our prayers are requested for Bonnie Zwart, Mark & Mary Anne Bewsher, Tina Quan, James Zvetina, Pat Glynn, Bobbie Engstrom, Diane Evans, Raquel Rodriguez, John Gracey, Bob Tomko, Jr., Virginia Reyes, Elizabeth Cauzza, Kay Reilly, Mary Jo Ferreira, Julie Rogers, Antonio Salinas, Josefina Flores, Jim Rothe, John Wallis, James Patrick Hawkins, Beatrice Tomko, and for the repose of the soul of Tabe Griffin

DAILY MASS

Weekday Mass is celebrated Monday through Saturday in St. Joseph's Rectory in Mammoth Lakes beginning at 7 AM. The door is open; just come in; don't ring the bell. Everyone is welcome to stay after for coffee and fellowship.



THE MONO COUNTY CATHOLIC

Before the mountains were born, the earth and the world brought forth, from eternity to eternity you are God. Psalm 90:2

December 25, 2011

Christmas

The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. 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 Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

Luke 2:9-12



**SAINT JOSEPH PARISH,
MONO COUNTY, CALIF.**

**P.O. Box 372,
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Rev. Paul Boudreau, pastor

CONFESSIONS

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated at St. Joseph Church from 5:30 to 5:45 PM on Saturdays, 7:30 to 7:45 on Sunday mornings, y en español a las tardes del domingo de 5:00 a 5:15; and upon request before mass at Our Savior of the Mountains and Infant of Prague missions.

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE
Mammoth Lakes: St. Joseph Church –
Saturday Vigil 6:00 PM
Sunday Mass: 8:00 AM
La Misa en Español: 5:30 PM
Lee Vining:
Our Savior of the Mountains Mission -
Sunday Mass 10:00 AM
Bridgeport: Infant of Prague Mission -
Sunday Mass 12:00 Noon

Mono County Catholic Dec 25, 2011

THE CHURCH celebrates several different masses for Christmas, each one specific to a particular time of day. There is the Vigil Mass Christmas Eve, the Mass during the Night (the term "midnight" simply meant the middle of the night, a tradition that pre-dates clocks), the Mass at Dawn, and the Mass during the Day. Each mass has its own readings.

FIRST READING:

Isaiah 62:1-5; 9:1-6; 62:11-12; 52:7-10

The Christmastime prophecies of Isaiah are all about something new breaking into the world. Is it the dawn? A victory? A discovery? Is it a wedding, a birth, a dance? It may be a hero, a champion, or a king; but by any other name, it is good news.

We have become a people hard to impress. New and improved? Show me why I should care! We've become cynical about change: the more things change, the more they stay the same. Leaders, ideas, trends and gadgets come and go. "Windows 7" may give way to "Windows 8", but will our software, or our lives, run any smoother?

And now the revered prophet tells us that something new is coming, on beautiful feet. A child is coming who is light for a dark world, a child who is Wonder and Hero and Peace. Can this child restore our lost wonder? Can this hero bring peace, to our hostile world, our fretful minds? Our world has been "forsaken" for so long; can we call it by a new name? Can "delight" come at last, to a "desolate" heart?

Another promise is coming – but this one will be kept. Another leader is coming, but this one will use his power to take care of people. Another light is coming, and this one won't burn out or be crushed. With this baby's birth, death loses its sting. With this man's

death, life is redefined. All we have to do is believe it! No news can help us if we put our hands over our ears, or refuse the breath of hope. New life has come. Do we dare to take it in our arms?

SECOND READING:

Acts 13:16-17, 22-25;

Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7; Hebrews 1:1-6

Christmas is a communal act. It is an event hard to celebrate alone, which is why we long to gather with family and friends even if it means crossing time zones and

king. John's baptism was not by special invitation, but a cry to one and all. And Jesus never meant to be a "personal savior." The long-ago story which culminates at the crib, and the everlasting story which begins there, are shared stories of a people who hold everything in common: one God, one faith, one way.

God calls a people to be Church, just as Jesus called followers from the start and did not set out on a solitary mission. We are heirs of new life as brothers and sisters who inherit the family estate, our names written together on the deed. And when we gaze into

like a happy couple. Prophecy meets vision, and revelation is born.

In Matthew's story, Joseph hears bad news about his future wife. But then in a dream he listens to angel talk and ancient prophecy, and decides to cast his lot with the good news instead. What he sees when he looks at Mary again is not treachery, but God's love. It was a sight that would shape the rest of his life.

In Luke, the good news travels to the poor, to some disenfranchised shepherds outside of town. One minute, the nighttime sky affords little light; the next moment, the glory of the Lord, an unfamiliar radiance, almost blinds them. Shepherds are not accustomed to good news, either – finding a lost sheep is generally as good as it gets. But what they hear on that particular night is remarkable. Someone has come to save... them. That's what the angel said: a savior is born for you. And while a choir of angels praises God's glory, all the shepherds want to do is run to see "this thing that has taken place." After they do, it's their turn to sing angel-song. The word and the deed are one.

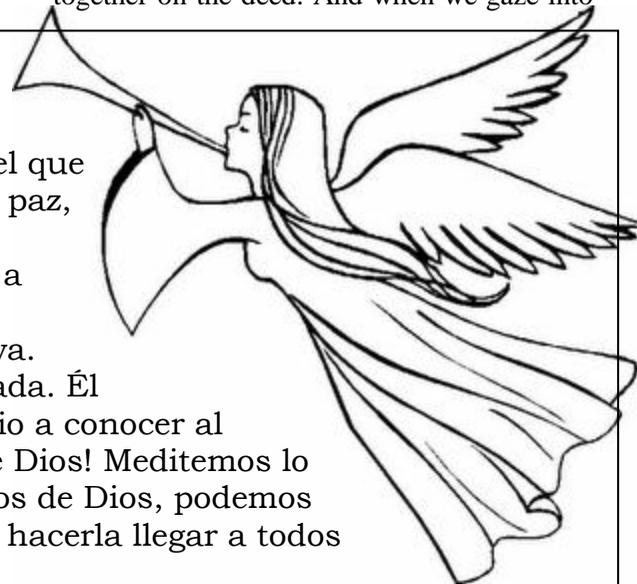
John begins boldly with a word, the Word. Before this Word, nothing was. Since this Word, all things are possible. But the Word had to meet flesh for us to touch it. When the Word became flesh, the world saw glory. And what does glory look like? Sometimes like the radiance around angels; and sometimes like a God-touched girl who bears love in her body, and a man who loves her and believes it. Christmas is full of miracles, sitting beside us, rich with promise. If we see God's love when we look at the world again, the sight could shape our lives forever.

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To everyone who reads these weekly explorations into the Word of God, may you discover in them a way to holiness and happiness during this Christmas season. Seek the mystery of God; it is born within you. *FP*

Buenas Noticias

¡Qué lindo ver por los montes los pasos del que viene con buenas noticias, anunciando la paz, trayendo la felicidad y proclamando la salvación! La profecía de Isaías nos llama a reflexionar qué vamos a hacer para que nuestras vidas manifiesten la Buena Nueva. El Mesías es el Rey de la Jerusalén renovada. Él purificó al mundo de sus pecados y nos dio a conocer al Padre. ¡Recibimos la gracia de ser hijos de Dios! Meditemos lo que esto significa: nosotros, hijos adoptivos de Dios, podemos sanar las discordias, trabajar por la paz y hacerla llegar a todos los confines de la tierra.



struggling through the year's worst traffic to be there. Suddenly we are Joseph at census time, wanting to be counted in the old hometown, even if it means sleeping on a cot in the attic or a manger in the barn when we get there. At the heart of Christmas lies a family, and their simple unity reminds us of all those to whom we most belong.

We unpack the meaning of this season together, never privately. God came to Israel the nation, not Jacob alone, and then pledged alliance with David's house, not only to the

the Christmas crèche and see the gentle unity of angels and animals, kings and shepherds, parents and child, we know that God's generosity is too great for one heart to hold.

GOSPEL:

Matthew 1:1-25; Luke 2:1-14; 2:15-20;

John 1:1-18

Christmas is a tale in two acts: what has been heard, and then what is seen. Word and deed support one another