

# THE SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD



*"And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth." -John 1:14*

## Scripture Commentary

**The First Reading is from the Book of Isaiah 52:7-10.** Today, Christmas Day, is the day when we commemorate the greatest, the mightiest, the most far-reaching event which ever took place in human history. No wonder we date our years from that event—the period that preceded it we call B.C, "before Christ's coming," the years since as "Anno Domino," the years of the Lord, the years which have elapsed since Christ came to assume the kingship of the world. The good tidings—the gospel—of peace has been brought to us by no less a person than the Son of God himself. And he came not as a mighty prince in the prime of life, as he could have done, but he came into this world like one of ourselves...Let us therefore "shout for joy and break out in song" as the prophet tells us, together with all the Christians of the earth on this great festival. It is the festival of God's infinite love and mercy, the festival of our salvation and elevation to sonship with God. Nothing greater could have happened to human nature. The Incarnation is the event of human history.

**The Second Reading is from the letter to the Hebrews 1:1-6.** The Epistle to the Hebrews was written to show how superior the new covenant was to the old. It was written most probably to converts from Judaism who, because of persecution from Judaizers, were tempted to change back to the old law and religion. These six verses of its first chapter were chosen for today's reading because of the clear, definite and emphatic declaration of the divinity of Christ which they contain. The baby who was born in a stable in Bethlehem, lived and died in Palestine, rose the third day from the grave and ascended to heaven forty days later, was also God, equal to the Father in all things. This is a mystery beyond our human comprehension, yet it is a fact, stated by Christ himself, believed and preached by the Apostles and accepted by the Church.

**The Gospel is from the Gospel of John 1:1-18.** The message the Church wishes us to hear from the readings that are read at the Sunday Masses of Advent and at the three Christmas Masses is surely this: "God so loved the world (i.e. us) that he gave his only-begotten Son a human nature, to dwell among us, to teach us, and finally to die for us....God loved us, that he has done wondrous things for us because of that love. One of these things, the greatest of them, is that today's gospel puts so clearly before us: it is the fact of the Incarnation which joined our human nature with the divinity in the Person of Christ, and thereby made us heirs of heaven. —Excerpted from The Sunday Readings by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

## January 1: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Mass Wednesday, December 31 @ 6:00 p.m.

- Adoration and Confession on Wednesday, December 31 beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Mass Thursday, January 1 @ Noon



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