



# St. Christopher Catholic Church

629 S. Glendora Ave., West Covina, CA 91790

TEL: (626) 960-1805 FAX: (626) 851-0595

OFFICE HOURS: Mon - Sat: 9AM to 1PM and 2PM to 6PM  
Sun: 8AM to 4PM

EMAIL: [sccwestcovina@gmail.com](mailto:sccwestcovina@gmail.com)

WEBSITE: [www.sccwestcovina.net](http://www.sccwestcovina.net)

## SCHEDULE OF MASSES

**SATURDAY:** 8:30 AM, 5:30 PM Vigil

**SUNDAY:** 7:00 AM, 8:30 AM,  
10:15 AM, 12 Noon,  
4:00 PM (Vietnamese), 6:30 PM

**WEEKDAY:** 6:30 AM, 8:30 AM

**FIRST WEDNESDAY:** 6:30 AM, 8:30 AM,  
6:30 PM

**FIRST FRIDAY:** 6:30 AM, 8:30 AM,  
6:30 PM, 8:00 PM (Vietnamese)

### **HOLY DAY:**

8:00 PM Vigil (Vietnamese/English)  
6:30 AM, 8:30 AM, 7:00 PM

### **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

SAT: 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM,  
6:30 PM - 7:00 PM, and by  
appointment

### **Pastor**

Rev. Joseph Dass

### **Associate Pastor/ Vietnamese Community Chaplain**

Rev. Khoa L. Mai

### **Permanent Deacons**

Deacon Douglas Moloney (Retired)  
Deacon Loc Nguyen  
Deacon Jesse Batacan  
Deacon Andrew Cho

### **School Principal**

Lucia Saborio

### **Director of Religious Formation**

Judi Peña

### **Parish Secretary**

Elizabeth Hudson



Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

*St. Christopher Church is a faith-community of diverse  
people who gather to joyfully celebrate life, faith and love in  
Jesus Christ through serving others.*



**Fourth Sunday of Advent****December 23, 2018****Reading 1 Mi 5:1-4a**

Thus says the LORD: You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah too small to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel; whose origin is from of old, from ancient times. Therefore the Lord will give them up, until the time when she who is to give birth has borne, and the rest of his kindred shall return to the children of Israel. He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock by the strength of the LORD, in the majestic name of the LORD, his God; and they shall remain, for now his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth; he shall be peace.

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19.**

**R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

O shepherd of Israel, hearken, from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth.  
Rouse your power, and come to save us.

**R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

Once again, O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven, and see; take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted the son of man whom you yourself made strong.

**R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

May your help be with the man of your right hand, with the son of man whom you yourself made strong. Then we will no more withdraw from you; give us new life, and we will call upon your name.

**R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

**Reading 2 Heb 10:5-10**

Brothers and sisters: When Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; in holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight. Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll, behold, I come to do your will, O God.'" First he says, "Sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings, you neither desired nor delighted in." These are offered according to the law. Then he says, "Behold, I come to do your will." He takes away the first to establish the second. By this "will," we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

**Alleluia Lk 1:38**

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel Lk 1:39-45**

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

## MEMORIES AND DREAMS

Throughout our lives, we retain the language and habits of our native region and family of origin. Should we return to our home after a long absence, we quickly revert to its familiar speech and practices. Our deep memory is reflected in old stories and words and speech patterns. This familiarity runs like an underground river and accompanies us wherever we go. Not only do we remember, we are incorporated into and made part of a greater memory. In remembering and recollecting, we are in turn gathered up and re-collected. Today we remember Mary, a small figure travelling the country roads to visit Elizabeth. All the great pronouncements and dreams of the prophets point to this time when the Lord's words to Mary would be gathered and fulfilled. The memories of her people are alive in her, and memories of her nourish our own living faith.

### Your prayers are requested for the recovery of:

Andy Buhain, Rosie Lavalan, Norma Marcia, Joaquin Lamchek, Ofelia Nava, Emmanuel Reyes, Rachel Duran, Mary Ellen Bogalina, Rosella Trujillo, Rose Zavala, Perna Castillo, Inocencio Yadao, Midori Ong, Matthew Sarnecki, Rebecca Contreras, David Enriquez, Gertrude Schlieker, Mateo Aguilar Jr., Cristy Garcia, Berna Luz, Myra Abellada, Martina, Steven Berktold, Kingston Reyes, Mariel Aquino, Joseph Mora, Francis Bong Sampang, Gigi Aguilar, Hayden Kane. Judith Billanes, Jenni Esqueda, Charles Sena, George Caballero, Romeo Guerrero, Tonia Tamayo, Concepcion Domingo, Fe Nicholas, Manuel Gonzales, Rudy Aguero, Sr., David Saucedo, Norma Mayo, Redante Fajardo, Jacqueline Tan, Encarnita Esteban, Tommy Romero, MaryAnn Mabeza, Felicitas Asistro, Alexander Asuncion, Ferdinand Asuncion, Carlos Gonzales.

*If you wish to offer prayers for the recovery of your loved ones, please contact the parish office at 626-960-1805*

## MASS READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Monday:** 2Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16  
Dec 24 **Lk 1:67-79**

**Christmas Vigil & Midnight** Is 62:1-5  
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25  
**Lk 2:15-20**

**Tuesday:** Is 52:7-10  
Dec 25 Heb 1:1-6  
**Christmas Lk 2:15-20**

**Wednesday:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59  
Dec 26 **Mt 10:17-22**

**Thursday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4  
Dec 27 **Jn 20:1a, 2-8**

**Friday:** 1 Jn 1:5-2:2  
Dec 28 **Mt 2:13-18**

**Saturday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11  
Dec 29 **Lk 2:22-35**

**Sunday:** 1Sm 1:20-22, 24-28  
Dec 30 1Jn 3:1-2, 21-24  
**Lk 2:41-52**



## ADULT CONFIRMATION

**MAY 8, 2019**

If you are a baptized adult who receives the Eucharist but has not received the Sacrament of Confirmation, let 2019 be the year you complete your initiation into our faith.

Top 5 reasons to be Confirmed in 2019:

- 1) You have the full richness of our faith
- 2) You may serve as a baptismal godparent
- 3) You may serve as a Confirmation Sponsor
- 4) You may marry in the Catholic Church.
- 5) You will have the opportunity to dig deep into our faith, learning about the faith which has been passed onto you, appreciate the Mass more deeply and love the Lord, our God more fully.

**Sessions begin in late January, 2019.**

**For more information about registering for the upcoming formation sessions, please contact:**

**Larry Jensen: (626) 222-4456 or the Faith Formation Office**

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

### Saturday, December 22

- 5:30 p.m.** (D) Marvin Campos †  
 — Everlino & Miriam Ramos  
 — Robert Black  
 — Marisa Soriente

### Sunday, December 23

- 7:00 a.m.** — St. Christopher Church Parishioners  
**8:30 a.m.** (D) Joshua Correa Marcelo †  
 (D) Epifanio Correa †  
 (D) Paztita Gladiola Gadia †  
 — Sara Acree  
**10:15 a.m.** (D) Caroline Garcia †  
 (D) Terry Galzote †  
 (D) Clark Amigable †  
 — Aida Asuncion Family  
**12:00 noon** (D) Pascual Caballero †  
 (D) Marvin Campos †  
 — Desiree Tinapay  
 — Alfonso Nunez  
**6:30 p.m.** (D) Sergia M. Ticong †  
 — Michael Acree  
 — Thelma S. Cuadra  
 — Rollin Richmond

### Monday, December 24

- 6:30 a.m.** — Emy Quintos  
**8:30 a.m.** (D) Joshua Correa Marcelo †  
 (D) Epifanio Correa †  
 — Joanne Christine C. Serrano

### Monday, December 24 (Vigil)

- 5:00 p.m.** — Ed & Pinkie Vitasa Family  
 — Claro & Fe Perez  
**7:00 p.m.** (D) Jesus Nerida, Sr. †  
 — Emma Orozco

### 12:00 Midnight

— St. Christopher Church Parishioners

### Tuesday, December 25

- 7:00 a.m.** (D) Leonardo & Christopher Frijas †  
 (D) Joseph Cuong Nguyen †  
**8:30 a.m.** (D) Joshua Correa Marcelo †  
 (D) Epifanio Correa †  
**10:15 a.m.** (D) Anna & Anton Nguyen †  
 (D) Dominic & Maria Dinh †  
**12:00 noon** (D) Joseph Mui Nguyen †  
 (D) Joseph Trung Nguyen †  
**6:30 p.m.** (D) Dominic Mieng †  
 (D) Joseph Chinh †  
 — Aaron N. Rivera  
 — Gimenez Family

### Wednesday, December 26

- 6:30 a.m.** (D) All Souls in Purgatory †  
**8:30 a.m.** (D) Joshua Correa Marcelo †  
 (D) Ramon Nava †  
 (D) Dulce R. Olano †  
 (D) Manuel Arreola †

### Thursday, December 27

- 6:30 a.m.** (D) Isidra & Mariano Cruz †  
**8:30 a.m.** (D) Joel Perales †  
 — James Hudson Sr.  
 — Manuel & Nilda Topacio  
 — Belen Dungca

### Friday, December 28

- 6:30 a.m.** (D) Emy Dungca †  
**8:30 a.m.** — Mr & Mrs Monte Sowles  
 — Ronald Buncio & Family  
 — Rosie Lavalan

### Saturday, December 29

- 8:30 a.m.** — Carlos A. Hatud



### CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

We are accepting poinsettia. You may drop them off at the Parish Office during office hours or at the church vestibule after Mass. For those who wish to give monetary donations for Christmas flowers, envelopes are available at the parish office. Thank you!



- ◆ Sangalang Violeta
- ◆ Berlina M. Marsog

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

# MERRY CHRISTMAS!

## Christmas Eve Masses

**December 24th**  
5:00 PM, 7:00 PM,  
9:00 PM (Vietnamese),  
12:00 Midnight

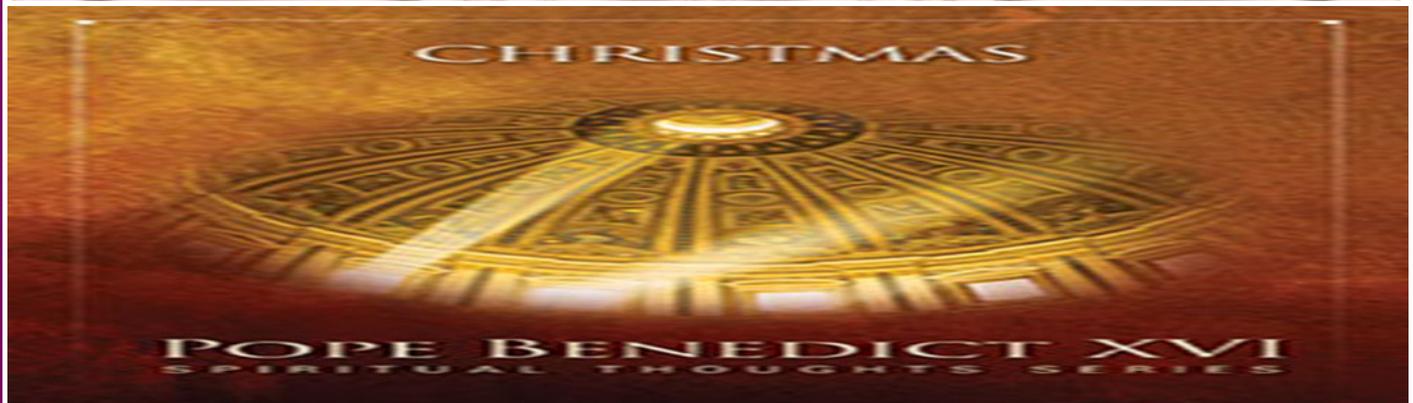
## Christmas Day Masses

**December 25th**  
7:00 AM, 8:30 AM,  
10:15 AM, 12:00 PM,  
4:00 PM (Vietnamese),  
6:30 PM

## Solemnity of Mary Masses

**December 31st**  
Vigil Mass 8:00 PM

**January 1st**  
6:30 AM, 8:30 AM  
& 10:15 AM



### "Preparation"

Christmas is a privileged opportunity to meditate on the meaning and value of our existence. The approach of this Solemnity helps us on the one hand to reflect on the drama of history in which people, injured by sin, are perennially in search of happiness and of a fulfilling sense of life and death; and on the other, it urges us to meditate on the merciful kindness of God who came to man to communicate to him directly the Truth that saves, and to enable him to partake in his friendship and his life. Therefore let us prepare ourselves for Christmas with humility and simplicity, making ourselves ready to receive as a gift the light, joy and peace that shine from this mystery.

---General Audience, December 17, 2008

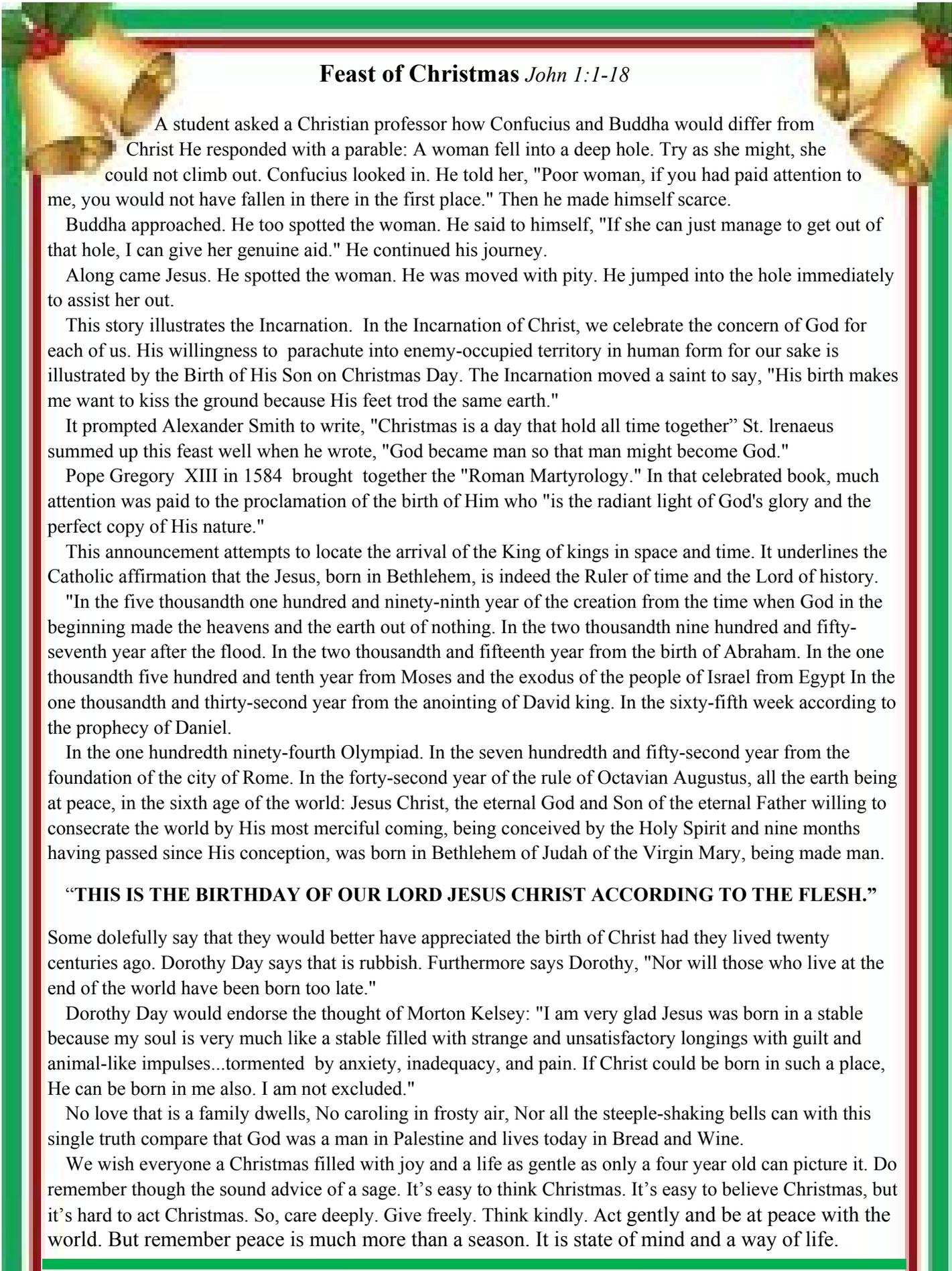
### "Changing"

Only if people change will the world change; and in order to change, people need the light that comes from God, the light which so unexpectedly [on the night of Christmas] entered into our night.

---Homily at Mass for the Solemnity, of the Nativity of the Lord, December 25, 2008

**ADS**

**ADS**



## Feast of Christmas *John 1:1-18*

A student asked a Christian professor how Confucius and Buddha would differ from Christ. He responded with a parable: A woman fell into a deep hole. Try as she might, she could not climb out. Confucius looked in. He told her, "Poor woman, if you had paid attention to me, you would not have fallen in there in the first place." Then he made himself scarce.

Buddha approached. He too spotted the woman. He said to himself, "If she can just manage to get out of that hole, I can give her genuine aid." He continued his journey.

Along came Jesus. He spotted the woman. He was moved with pity. He jumped into the hole immediately to assist her out.

This story illustrates the Incarnation. In the Incarnation of Christ, we celebrate the concern of God for each of us. His willingness to parachute into enemy-occupied territory in human form for our sake is illustrated by the Birth of His Son on Christmas Day. The Incarnation moved a saint to say, "His birth makes me want to kiss the ground because His feet trod the same earth."

It prompted Alexander Smith to write, "Christmas is a day that hold all time together" St. Irenaeus summed up this feast well when he wrote, "God became man so that man might become God."

Pope Gregory XIII in 1584 brought together the "Roman Martyrology." In that celebrated book, much attention was paid to the proclamation of the birth of Him who "is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of His nature."

This announcement attempts to locate the arrival of the King of kings in space and time. It underlines the Catholic affirmation that the Jesus, born in Bethlehem, is indeed the Ruler of time and the Lord of history.

"In the five thousandth one hundred and ninety-ninth year of the creation from the time when God in the beginning made the heavens and the earth out of nothing. In the two thousandth nine hundred and fifty-seventh year after the flood. In the two thousandth and fifteenth year from the birth of Abraham. In the one thousandth five hundred and tenth year from Moses and the exodus of the people of Israel from Egypt. In the one thousandth and thirty-second year from the anointing of David king. In the sixty-fifth week according to the prophecy of Daniel.

In the one hundredth ninety-fourth Olympiad. In the seven hundredth and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome. In the forty-second year of the rule of Octavian Augustus, all the earth being at peace, in the sixth age of the world: Jesus Christ, the eternal God and Son of the eternal Father willing to consecrate the world by His most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit and nine months having passed since His conception, was born in Bethlehem of Judah of the Virgin Mary, being made man.

**"THIS IS THE BIRTHDAY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO THE FLESH."**

Some dolefully say that they would better have appreciated the birth of Christ had they lived twenty centuries ago. Dorothy Day says that is rubbish. Furthermore says Dorothy, "Nor will those who live at the end of the world have been born too late."

Dorothy Day would endorse the thought of Morton Kelsey: "I am very glad Jesus was born in a stable because my soul is very much like a stable filled with strange and unsatisfactory longings with guilt and animal-like impulses...tormented by anxiety, inadequacy, and pain. If Christ could be born in such a place, He can be born in me also. I am not excluded."

No love that is a family dwells, No caroling in frosty air, Nor all the steeple-shaking bells can with this single truth compare that God was a man in Palestine and lives today in Bread and Wine.

We wish everyone a Christmas filled with joy and a life as gentle as only a four year old can picture it. Do remember though the sound advice of a sage. It's easy to think Christmas. It's easy to believe Christmas, but it's hard to act Christmas. So, care deeply. Give freely. Think kindly. Act gently and be at peace with the world. But remember peace is much more than a season. It is state of mind and a way of life.