



# Daily Reflections

**December 25, 2017**

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## Scripture

### **John 1: 1-5, 9-14**

In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God.

All things came to be through him,  
and without him nothing came to be.

What came to be through him was life,  
and this life was the light of the human race;  
the light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness has not overcome it.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world,  
and the world came to be through him,  
but the world did not know him.

He came to what was his own,  
but his own people did not accept him.

But to those who did accept him  
he gave power to become children of God,  
to those who believe in his name,  
who were born not by natural generation  
nor by human choice nor by a man's decision  
but of God.

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.

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

It took four centuries for the Church to establish December 25 as the official date for Christmas. Why did it take so long, you are probably wondering? Because they spent the first four centuries trying to figure out who Jesus was. Turn to the first and second letters of John and you will find words such as "liar" "deceiver" and "anti-Christ." The harshness of these words indicates a struggle in the early Church with heresy. Some people had a difficult time comprehending what today's Gospel tells us about Our Lord: "And the word became flesh and made His dwelling among us." We call this teaching the "Incarnation." Simply put, God became man. But it was the implications of this statement of faith that led to confusion, disagreement and heresy. What does the Incarnation mean for us today? The same thing it meant for disciples of Jesus 2017 years ago:

1. God became a human being, One like us in all things but sin.
2. He really, truly, fully became Man.
3. Because He fully embraced humanity, human life was consecrated to Him.
4. Therefore, from the moment of conception to death, human life is sacred.

What an incredible thing to say about Christmas. How can we be anything but joyful, humbled and grateful? Merry Christmas!

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## **Food for your Journey**

A group of first-graders got together and decided to write their own version of the nativity. It was more modern than the traditional drama. Oh, there were the familiar cast members: Joseph, the shepherds, the three wise men, the star and an angel propped up in the background. But Mary was nowhere to be seen.

Suddenly, some loud moans and groans could be heard behind the bales of hay. Evidently, Mary was in labor. Soon the doctor arrived, dressed in a white

coat with a stethoscope around his neck. Joseph, with a look of relief on his face, took the doctor straight to Mary and then started pacing back and forth.

After a few moments, the "doctor" emerged with a big smile on his face. "Congratulations, Joseph," he said. "It's a God."

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, As I celebrate Your holy birth, may I be truly grateful for and humbled by You. You came into this world to save me from my sins and to offer me new and everlasting life. Thank You, Lord Jesus, for the greatest gift of all. Amen.