

# MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

Brothers of Holy Cross – Midwest Province - P.O. Box 460 – Notre Dame, Indiana 46556-0460

December 27, 2023

*Merry Christmas*

*And a*

*Blessed New*

*Year*



## Glorious Things Unfold

Glorious things on high unfold,  
as prophets of old have foretold.  
A seed from the root of Jesse shall spring,  
and from this seed, a Savior God will bring.

The Angel Gabriel to a maiden did appear  
and said to her, "Mary, do not fear—  
a savior child you soon will bear,  
and to him then give great care.

Care for him, teach him and tend his needs.  
As he grows, teach him his whole creed.  
Then, as he grows, he'll make his decision—  
to save mankind will be his mission.

For us living now we know  
Jesus' love on us He does bestow—  
for us to be disciples He does call,  
to help save humans, one and all.

—**Brother Jerome Kroetsch, CSC**



Reflection for Christmas Eve Night Liturgy  
Brother Robert Mosher, C.S.C.

A thought becomes a word and a word becomes a reality.

In the Prologue to his gospel, the Evangelist St. John proclaims in Chapter 1 verse 1 that “In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God.” In doing so he portrays the preexistence of the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, who, incarnated, became Jesus. Thus, “the word was made flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:23).

As we know, in his incarnation, the Second Person chose and united a human nature to that of His own divine nature, each of which was intrinsically distinct but perfectly united in wills, so that whatever the animation of either one of the wills be, it can be attributed to the one same person – Jesus.

The phrase “In the beginning . . .” in tomorrow’s gospel, echoes back to the creation story in Chapter 1 verse 1 of Genesis. Speaking of the Word’s participation, St. John says in Chapter 1 verse 3 of his Prologue:

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

Furthermore, In *Proverbs* Chapter 8: verses 8ff the Word himself, speaking as wisdom personified, recalls his presence at the time of creation:

From of old I was formed,  
At the first, before earth. . . .  
When there was no fountains or springs of water . . .  
When he made firm the skies above, . . .  
When he set for the sea its limit, . . .  
When I was beside him as artisan . . .  
. . . I was there, . . .



Playing over the whole of his earth, having my delight with human beings.

So delightful must it have been that he became one of us, a creature like us, except without sin. Thus God, who after Mount Sinai, directed Moses to have the people build God an ark and tent to house his presence among them, once again pitched his tent by his becoming incarnated and being born among us humans.

From Chapter 2:8-14 of St. Luke's gospel, we learn of Jesus' birth through an angelic announcement to nearby shepherds: "For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and King" (v11), a long wished for and prophesied expectation ever since the reign of King David of Old Testament times.

The newly born infant of the gospel Nativity narratives appears little like being either God or king. And according to St. Paul in Philippians 2:7 Jesus intended it so, considering it best "to empty himself."

So God the co-creator, as a new born creature himself, experiences his first breath of air, the touch of soothing hands, the sight of a flickering fire to keep him and his parents warm, the smell of the oxen, donkey, and sheep stabled with him, hearing the sound of the adoring shepherds voicing their astonishment, the taste of the nourishment he draws from his mother's breast, and, perhaps, finally, the easy confidence of falling asleep in the inviting security of his foster father's arms.

Like those shepherds tending their flocks outside of Bethlehem, the first to be invited to pay homage to the infant born in a stable and wrapped in swaddling clothes, who one day would become known as the Good Shepherd, we as Religious of Holy Cross have also been invited to become shepherds ourselves, and by our ministry, whatever it has been, have faithfully pastured in righteousness our king's flock of sheep, even those who strayed or became lost, and by our Profession of Vows have willingly, like our Lord Jesus, the Good Shepherd himself, laid down our lives for them. Therefore, let us all go in spirit to Bethlehem and do homage to our King, Redeemer, and fellow human being Jesus.

## Columba Hall Christmas Vigil



**Brother Robert Mosher, C.S.C. Presents the Vigil's Homily**



**Father Bill Blum, C.S.C. Celebrant for the Christmas Vigil**



**Brother James Kane, C.S.C. Reader**



## Christmas Day at Columba



**Christmas Day Mass  
Father Tom Zurcher, C.S.C.**



**Thank you for our Christmas  
Day dinner**

Brother Columba O'Neill, C.S.C.  
Servant of God

Website  
<https://brothercolumba.com/>



Brother Philip Smith, C.S.C.  
Postulator of the cause for Brother Columba



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## Holy Cross Roads Writings for the Journey

### **Bearer of Joy**

How can we be a bearer of joy if we ourselves are not there in experiencing joy? Maybe things can really be bothering us such as health issues, situations in our families, communities, the country, and the tragedies that are happening around the world and with mother earth.

Perhaps our joy can come from another place. We need to get in touch with our blessedness. Yes, God has blessed each of us with a special blessing. We sometimes experience it when we celebrate our birthday. But each moment is a gift as we breathe in and breathe out. Our life is connected to God's life within us. If we could only experience that presence each day, it would cause feelings of thankfulness and praise. With those realizations joy cannot be far behind. Then it will possible to express the joy which is contagious and will be a blessing to those we meet today.

Experiencing joy that God gives you, you may just be able to go beyond the fear that underlies the sadness you experience. If you can accomplish that, who knows what might be possible?

- What brings joy in your life?
- Does considering life as a gift enter your thoughts?
- Have you experienced that your joy was "contagious?"

**O God, help me be a bearer of joy to a sad world.**

**Brother Carl Sternberg, C.S.C.**



For more reflections to grow spiritually  
please visit our new blog  
<https://weeklyspiritualinsights.org/>



## Bread

Whenever speaking to the crowds that almost always followed Him, Jesus proved Himself a master of the metaphor – a linguistic device evoking a direct comparison.

In the context of the imagery Jesus most often used, Jesus directed His teaching toward the poor. Thus, on one occasion, when speaking about prayer, Jesus asked:

**“Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give him a stone. . . . If you, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your child, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him?” (Matthew 7:9-11)**

In Jesus’ time and place bread constituted for the poor especially the main staple of their ordinarily meager daily diet. The dough was pounded and baked into flat cakes (looking something like stones).



On occasion when such bread was unavailable, children were forced to beg for it. So, as Jesus’ metaphor illustrates – no person would deny them the real thing. Therefore God, as a father, would always provide us with what is good, what we **need** – the **real** thing.





Brother  
James  
Kane,  
CSC



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