

Saint Bernadette Church

Sharing the Message

A simple faith sharing process to put Jesus' message at the heart of your meeting.



Opening Prayer

Holy Spirit,
Direct our minds with Your wisdom.
Open our ears with Your words.
Touch our lips with Your truth.
Fill our hearts with Your love.
Amen.

Scripture Reading

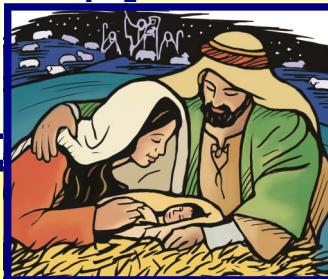
Christmas, Mass During the Night
(Other Masses use other readings)
Luke 2:1-14

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. 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." And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke...

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

(Allow 30 Seconds of Reflective Silence.)



Reflect & Share

Share one or more of the following questions.
What word or phrase speaks to you in this reading?

Can you remember who first told you the Christmas story? Which character did you like best? Which part of the story do you like best now?

What holiday traditions bind your family together? Are there other ways your family keeps Jesus at the center of the season?

Do you find it an odd contrast that the angels sing of peace when Mary and Joseph's circumstances seem anything but peaceful? Where would you like the angels to sing of peace today?

Do you think there is special meaning in the first visitors to baby Jesus being shepherds? Do you think the shepherds were the same after their experience? Do you think they understood when they went and found Mary and Joseph and the baby in the stable? What enables you to see the divine in the ordinary?

How does Jesus incarnation bring you Joy? How will you share the Good News of the Incarnation with others?

Closing Prayer

O Holy Child of Bethlehem,
grant that we may share with all our hearts
in this profound mystery of Christmas.
Put into the hearts of people everywhere this peace
for which they sometimes seek so desperately
and which You alone can give to them.
Help them to know one another better,
and to live as brothers and sisters,
children of one Father.
Reveal to them also Your beauty, holiness and purity.
Awaken in their hearts
love and gratitude for Your infinite goodness.
Join them all together in Your love.
And give us Your heavenly peace. Amen.

— Christmas Prayer of Pope John the 23rd.

The Message

His Message

Our Message.