

December 25, 2022
Nativity of the Lord

Isaiah 9: 1-6

Psalm 96

Titus 2: 11-14

Luke 2: 1-14

King Solomon,
A Contrast from
Jesus Christ, the King of the Jews

For those who are not familiar with Blessed Sacrament Parish you should know each Christmas a "Guest Speaker" comes from the past to share his reflection on the Christ event. This year our guest is King Solomon.

For an exceedingly long time, the Jewish people did not have a king. To them it would be wrong to have a king. Only God may be king. They did have prophets and judges, however. After a while they saw their nation rise on the world scene. They compared themselves to other nations of people and decided they needed a king as the others had.

In the year 1020 BCE, Saul became the first king of the people of Israel. After him came King David and then from David came Solomon.

The name Solomon means peace. However, Solomon was named Jedidiah at birth (2Sam2:25). He took the name Solomon when he ascended the throne and remained king from 961-922 BCE. (1Kings 1-2)

Solomon did not seek to be king. He was the son of David's favorite wife and she campaigned for her son to be king. Thus, Solomon was not involved in the affairs that made him king. Nevertheless, once he did become king, Solomon did everything he could to maintain his position. He exterminated several people who might rival him.

It is true under Solomon's rule there was an extended period of peace with Israel's neighbors. Furthermore, Solomon initiated and completed many building projects. No doubt you heard of the great temple and his palace.

All the so-called progress during his reign came at a cost. Solomon indentured people in forced labor that was a tax in itself. He also financially taxed the people heavily. He and his close allies did well but the majority of the population did not, as king Solomon served himself and his friends. Further, he took to worship of gods other than the One True God. This was due to the different religions his many wives followed.

Thus, King Solomon's reign stood in much contrast to that of Jesus Christ.

From the beginning Jesus was born in poverty. He was laid in a feeding trough, a manger. His mother Mary was somewhat of a scandal. She was with child without her husband Joseph. The truth was she was informed by the Spirit she would be giving birth to the child Jesus.

Joseph was a good man. He was simple, a carpenter who lived in a land where few trees grew. And being kind, he did not put Mary out of his life. An angel told him the situation and to not be afraid to take her into his home. Both Mary and Joseph trusted in God. They were not worldly people. They were simple servants of God. They did not serve themselves as Solomon did.

Jesus came from Nazareth. It was a city of mixed people. There were pagans and Jewish people there. So humble a place it caused the question to be made in the Gospel, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Jn 3:23 This was no royal beginning.

Jesus was rooted in humanity. He came down from a line that goes back to King David. Look at his genealogy found in Mathew's Gospel. He belongs to all of humankind; Tamar, Rahab, Ruth and the wife of Uriah. These people were even considered foreigners to the people of Israel. In his mercy and in humility God came to us. He did not deem equality something to be grasped at. Rather he came to us as one like us.

In the Scriptures the highlights of Jesus's life were his Passion, death, Resurrection, Ascension to the Father and the proceeding of the Holy Spirit from the Father and Jesus. These were mighty things but humble in service to all. It is through Jesus we learn to know God. His manifestation is the only true view of God's revelation. Jesus is truly God and truly human. He exists eternally.

While Jesus walked on this earth, he never lived in a palace nor had fine clothing. He did not have attendants to take care of his wants. But he had disciples who learned from him. He sent Apostles out to speak his word and to continue his healing ways. Jesus recruited, not excluded, the poor in spirit and welcomed all who sought fulness and fulfillment of life.

Jesus still does all this. He sent the Holy Spirit to continue his work in and through us. As such the Church was formed and lives today. We now must be open to his call to continue to establish his humble kingdom. He so loves us he extends his trust to us to do his work still. Jesus through the Holy Spirit empowers us. His kingdom is all of us, all of creation. It is limitless.

Please permit the Spirit that proceeds from the Father and the Son to influence your life. Be like Jesus. Be a humble servant and find fulness and fulfillment. This may begin now in this life. And by doing so in this life it will extend to eternal life that you will enjoy.

King Solomon was as good a servant of God as he could be in his circumstances. He was limited. Jesus however

rose above all limits of this earthly life. That is in great contrast to King Solomon.

In his name and by following Jesus you also may rise above the limits of this earth. Because Jesus has come into our time and space and sent the Spirit, we now have such great grace to empower us. Following Jesus from this day onward you and I may live a holy life together. That is, being holy we live a life that is in contrast to all those who do not walk with Jesus.

In this secular new year live a life that is in contrast with the rest of the world. Keep holy the Lord's Day every Sunday and follow God's commandments.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Solemnity of Mary
Num6:22-27; Gal4:4-7; Lk2:16-21

STEWARDSHIP

Time, Talent, Tithing

It is our way of showing gratitude to God for life itself. It is also your way of being part of the mission and participating in the challenge of spreading the Good News of Love.

Attendance last week:	291
Tithes Collected:	\$5,492.00
Online Giving:	\$1,107.00
Total:	\$6,599.00
Per Capita:	\$22.68

Thank You!

NOTE:

COMMUNITY

**Schedule of Liturgies for the
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
December 31st: 4:00pm, Vigil Mass
January 1st: 9am & 10:45am Mass**

The Weekend Schedule is as Always:

**Saturday: 4:00pm
Sunday: 9:00am & 10:45am**

**CALENDAR OF SOME
IMPORTANT EVENTS**

Stewardship Sundays

January 15, 22, 29,

Stewardship Recognition Sunday

February 5th. Special Community Person besides a parish member.

Ash Wednesday. February 22. Liturgy will be at 7:00pm.

Reconciliation Thursday. February 23rd. A special prayer service and the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be at 7:00pm.

Healing Friday. February 24th. A service of the Anointing of the Sick will be at 7:00pm.

Holy Week Begins

Passion Sunday, April 2nd

Holy Thursday, April 6th at 7pm

Good Friday, April 7th at 7pm

Easter Vigil, April 8th at 8pm

Easter Sunday, April 9th Masses at 9am and 10:45am

Hurricane Ian Relief

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Miami, Inc., is seeking your support to provide essential resources and immediate relief efforts to Florida's west coast after hurricane Ian. We are now accepting financial donations through www.ccadm.org.

One hundred percent of your donations will be used for Hurricane Ian relief efforts.

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is the care we take of the gifts we have been given. The primary gifts are those of Time, Talent and Treasure. Within these are found all the other attributes you may find in yourself.

I think of the talents I have been given by God. They are many. I could not decide what course in life I should take. I wanted to do all the things I ever dreamed of. Yet, in the practical sense I could only pick one way in life, one vocation.

However, once I said yes to God all the things, I thought of doing in my lifetime slowly began to unfold for me. By saying yes to God and accepting His call to the priesthood all my talents were put to good use.

Take a good look at yourself. What talents do you have? What gifts stand out to you? How might you put them to use for the glory of God and His people? You are gifted. You are a unique creation of God. Take care of all that you are and take care of all that is around you. Be a good steward.

Stewardship Days begin January 15th. Everyone will have the chance to contribute his and her Time, Talent and Treasure.

2023 Retreat schedule

Now is the perfect time to give yourself or your loved one the gift of a spiritual retreat at Our Lady of Florida Spiritual Center. The 2023 theme is "Whatever you ask in my name" (John 14:13)

Women's Retreat	Men's Retreat
February 24-26, 2023	March 3-5, 2023

Reserve your space for only \$50.00. The balance of \$190 is due at the retreat

Register via the website: www.ourladyofflorida.org or call 561-626-1300

Things to Know

- All rooms are private bedrooms with a full size bed, in roommate style accommodations (shared bathroom per two rooms)
- Check in time is from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm on Friday with dinner from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm
- Retreat talks usually begin Friday at 7:00 pm and end on Sunday by Noon, casual clothes recommended

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Joe Alfaro, Jordan Almendral, JoAnn Anderson, Angiolina Armenti, Michael Beard, Karen Becker, Mary Benivegna, Margarita Bogle, Tom Carver, Sean Chin, Robert Clark, Mary Collis, John Cooper, Logan Costante, Gregoria Daen, Sam DeMarco, Ines DeSalle, Roseanne DeSimone, Lisa DeStasio, Joseph Devlin, John Dooney, Nelson Douaihi, Peggy Duff, Susan Fabbri, Lisa Findlay, Megan Forrester, Joshua Freeman, Richard Gossett, Ana Gilajota, Stephen Goch, Keri Greenan, Richard & Cathy Harper, Tyler Harrison, Dil Hatchett, Cindy Hogman, Tiffany Kentosh, Butch Klinger, Judith Kolo, Arnold Lakso, John LaNeve, Tamika Lee, Bernie Ligget, Gail Martin, Sean Martin, Mary McKelvey, Clare McMahon, Frank McNeil, Rylee Mertz, Dan Murphy, Teresita Nazareno, Lauren Nicole, Thomas O'Brien, Barbara Perry, Della Mae Reblin, Lucy Reitano, Coleen Riley, Paul Riley, Dee Ripple, Jackson Ripple, Matilda Rivier, Charles Rousseau, Anthony Ruggiero, Theresa Schluter, Brad Schroder, Ellen Seaman, Roger Sherman, Jim Smullen, Vivian Spasiano, Rick Steffan, M. Stoufer, Richard Taylor, Antoinette Teresi, Constantino Thomas, Renette Valcourt, Sr. Frances Vass, OSC, Margarita Verano, Peggy Weiss, Ed Wrisley, Nancy Zakem, Marie & Jeff, Lucas Zaky

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 24		
4:00 p.m.		Blessed Sacrament Parish
11:00 p.m.		Blessed Sacrament Parish
Sunday, December 25		
10:45 a.m.		Blessed Sacrament Parish
Monday, December 26		
8:00 a.m.		NO MASS/OFFICE CLOSED
Tuesday, December 27		
8:00 a.m.	†	Daniel Blaha, Jr. by Bill & Chris Crepage
Wednesday, December 28		
8:00 a.m.	†	Djalma Pereira by Family
Thursday, December 29		
8:00 a.m.	†	Djalma Pereira by Family
Friday, December 30		
8:00 a.m.	†	Agueda Verez by Ronald Rodriguez
Saturday, December 31		
4:00 p.m.	†	Djalma Pereira by Family
	†	Marie Maloku by Rick Simoneau
Sunday, January 1		
9:00 a.m.		Blessed Sacrament Parish
10:45 a.m.		Blessed Sacrament Parish

The Twelve Days of Christmas The Meaning Behind the Song

The twelve days of Christmas are the twelve days between Christmas Day, Dec. 25th, the birth of Jesus, and the Epiphany, Jan. 6th, the day Christians celebrate the arrival of the Magi (Wise Men) and the revelation of Christ as the light of the world.

The Christmas song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" may sound silly and contrived to many of us. But it actually had its origins in religious symbolism - and with a serious purpose.

It dates from a time of religious persecution. The song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas," was written as a kind of secret catechism that one could sing in public without fear of arrest - a learning or memory aid to Christians in fact.

The song can be taken at two levels of interpretation - the surface meaning, or the hidden meaning known only to the Christians involved. Each element is a code word for a religious truth.

One partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.

Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.

Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.

Four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.

Six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.

Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: prophesy, serving, teaching, exhortation, contribution, leadership, and mercy.

Eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.

From here on, the order is different from the original song!

Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments.

Eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.

Twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

<http://forums.catholic.com/showthread.php?t=404279>