

- We gather today to celebrate the most blessed event the world has ever known: the birth of our *Lord and Savior*, Jesus Christ.
- Our *Responsorial Psalm* today says, "All the ends of the earth have seen the Saving Power of God...!" (Ps 98)
- We all need a *Savior*... It's too easy to lose our way in life and become confused about our *Purpose in Life*.
- "Our purpose in life" of course, is to prepare our Soul for the next life—the *Eternal Life*."
- The *Eternal Life* is where all the "citizens of heaven" get to live in perfect *Peace, Harmony and Happiness*.
- This has never happened in *this* world because mankind wants to continually rely on his own *Wisdom and Authority*, rather than God's.
- You can't have perfect *Peace, Harmony and Happiness* if everyone in the world gets to determine what "TRUTH" is.
- For this reason, there can only be *ONE TRUTH* and that TRUTH must come from God—the *Designer, Creator and Sustainer* of our Lives.

- Our God is not a god of confusion. Confusion is of the Devil, and from it, comes *hate, violence* and *chaos*—whether it's in our *souls*—or in the *world*.
- It's only when people know what TRUTH is, that *Peace* and *Harmony* can reign in our *Soul*, in our *Family* and in our *Society*.
- That's why there must be one *Absolute Truth*, a *Truth* that cannot be refuted by the reasoning of mankind.
 - A Truth that comes from the very mouth of God!
Enter, Jesus Christ, who was *God* on earth!¹
- St. John tells us in today's Gospel, "The Word became Flesh, and dwelt among us!" (Jn 1:1-18)
- No one saw God's face in the Old Testament. When God spoke it was from a burning bush, or a cloud, or in the wind.
- We heard the VOICE of God, the WORD of God, but never saw His face.
- But now, the "WORD" became "Flesh" and took on our Human Form so we could have a "living example" of what God expects ALL of His Children to become.

¹ CCC 449, Acts 2:34-36; Rom 9:5; Titus 2:13; Rev 5:13; Phil 2:6.

- As the Letter to the Hebrews says,
 - "God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the Prophets... but in these last days, He has spoken to us through the **Son!**" (Heb 1:1-6)
- Simply put, "We never really *knew* God until we met His Son..."
- God promised us that one day He would walk among us and teach us His Commands (Lev 26:12, Is. 54:13; Jn 6:45).
 - That's in ***Leviticus*** Ch. 26, ***Isaiah*** Ch. 54, and ***John*** Ch. 6.
- God gave us hundreds of *Prophecies* in the OT about His entrance into the world through the *Messiah*, the *Chosen One*, the *Christ*.
- We've been listening to these Prophecies over the last 4 weeks of *Advent* and we will hear more of them when *Lent* begins in February.
- **Jesus Christ** is the only figure in the history of the world to ever fulfill those prophecies.
- It wasn't *Buddha*. It wasn't *Confucius*. It wasn't *Krishna*. And it certainly wasn't *Muhammad* who came 600 years *after* Christ and even denied Jesus was Divine.

- Nope, Jesus is truly the *Messiah*, as foretold by God and fulfilled by Christ—
 - who then fulfilled his own prophecy by *predicting* his death—and then *rising* from it.
- If someone is going to tell you they know the path to Eternal Life, don't you think they should be able to prove it?
- Again, only Jesus Christ did this. What does this tell you about him?
- **That's right!** He was God on earth and as St. Paul tells *the Colossians*, "the visible image of the invisible God" (Col 1:15-18).
- Now, if you believe Jesus was God on earth, you cannot claim to be a "follower" of Christ in *one breath*, and then in *another breath*, disagree with what he has commanded us to do.
- **St. Augustine said**, "If you believe what you *like* in the Gospels, and *reject* what you don't like, it is not the Gospel you believe in, but yourself..."
- We all want Jesus as our *Savior* in life to take away our *Sins* and make our Soul feel good and whole again.

- But there's another side of us that doesn't want Jesus to be the LORD of our life whose will and authority we must obey.
- And the reason we don't want to do everything that Jesus commanded us to do...
 - you know like: *love your enemies, forgive seventy times seven, do unto others as we'd have done unto us, be holy just as your Father in heaven is Holy...*"
 - ...is because *that* would mean we would have to change!
- I know what you're thinking... you're thinking, "God loves me just the way I am..."
 - That's true! But God also loves you too much to leave you that way!
- If we truly believe that Jesus is the *Savior* of our Life, that means we must also accept Him as the LORD of our Life and trust in HIS wisdom over our own.
 - This is why *Proverb 9* says, "Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom..."

- God knows, it's too easy to lose our way in life when we start thinking that "we know better than God what's best for us."
- That's like children telling their parents they know what's best for them. And yet, that's what we do to God *all the time!*
- The first lesson in the Bible with Adam and Eve is that they wanted to become "god-like", without the help of God,
 - just like children want to be "adult-like" without the help of adults.
 - We know it doesn't work that way with our children, and it certainly doesn't work that way with God!
- My *Christmas wish* for you all in the coming year is that we will always seek Christ out with the same *Enthusiasm* and *Joy* that we seek him with at Christmas time...
 - ...that we renew our Baptismal promises to be a *true disciple* and *follower* of Christ, and obey **ALL** of his teachings and commands—not just the ones we *pick* and *choose*.

- History proves time and time again that when we ignore the *wisdom* of the Gospel, mankind will always find a lesser wisdom to live by.
- And if you don't believe that, just look at all the *terrorism*, *confusion* and *anger* going on around the world, and in own country!
- Come to Mass! Practice your Catholic Faith! Defend the only doctrine in the history of the world that contains the formula—
 - ***not only*** for World Peace—***but*** for *Everlasting Peace* through the *Prince of Peace*—JESUS CHRIST!
- **MERRY CHRISTMAS** everyone! And may you remain in our Lord's Graces by seeking him out *every day* of the new year,
 - and then share the Graces you receive from him with everyone you meet!