

# Christmas Eve & Christmas Day 2024

*December 24-25, 2024*

Have you ever noticed how a baby tends to bring out the best in us? Think of those movies that you have watched *or* the infants brought into your home. We become more feeling, more compassionate, more considerate, more caring... we really do.

If there is a baby in the midst of strangers quite often you see the strangers talking with one another and smiling at the baby. **The baby is the connector.** A baby can make a proud intellectual humble himself and “coo” or make those silly faces. A baby can make a tough, buff and rugged linebacker become as *gentle as a lamb*. A baby can make a *cold hearted* financial wizard become more involved in Sesame Street *than* Wall Street. We have many *new* babies in our parish. Every once in a while, you can hear one of them chirp.

**Yes, it is true; a baby *can* bring out the best in us.**

Today we celebrate the birthday of a *very* special child who grew up to be a very special man. His name is Jesus. He is *the* Christ. It is most fitting to reflect under the light of scripture as to WHO he is and what His life *means* to the way you live today.

Point one: God came to us as a baby to *bring out the best in us*. If He came manifesting all his POWER, we would immediately become defensive... afraid uninterested. He

wants us to be open and at peace. When *this* baby grew up, he continued to break through defenses, eliminating fear and bringing peace. At one time, a woman who had committed “*many sins*” heard him say “*Your sins are forgiven. Go in peace.*” He wants the same for **you** and me. He wants us to drop our defensiveness and be at peace with God... with self... with others...

Jesus was **not** born for the sake of the good guys and gals—He came for the bad gals and bad guys. He came to save *sinner*s, **not** the righteous. He not only forgives us of our past weakness but gives the *grace* necessary to change the *not-so-pleasant* other side of who we are.

***These are days of great joy!*** But for some reason radio and television stations, department store & media advertisements, Wally World *and the like* seem to think all is over on December 24.

Because of our **faith**, we know it is **not**... it’s just not!

You are the light of the world BECAUSE Jesus **is** the light of world. You may say, “*How can this be?*” To which I say, “**Think with Your Heart**”. People are so ready to *tune in* to people who are **compassionate**. People are so ready to *tune in* to people who are **considerate**. People are so ready to *tune in* to people who **care**.

Jesus is “*the light of the world*” yet He never wrote of book, never held an office, never owned a home, never had a partner or a family, never went to college, never put His foot inside a big city, never traveled 200 miles from the

place where He was born. YET, all the armies that ever marched and all the navies that ever sailed and all the governments that ever sat and the kings and queens and presidents that ever reigned or ruled **put TOGETHER**, have *not* affected the life of humankind upon this earth as had that *one solitary life*.

*Jesus, the light of this world, invites each and every one of us to be a light to the world this night. If we say “yes” He promises to make our gladness greater and our joy deeper.*

**Now it IS up to us...**