

December 25, 2014 – Christmas Day Reflection
By Anne Winschel, CDP



The spaceless and timeless Mystery of the Incarnation draws us to our knees and moves us to wonder! “Oh, the depth of the power and love of God!” The magnitude of the mystery is given expression in song and bells, gift exchanges, cards, baking, colorful lights and decorations, Christmas trees, parties, prayer rituals, family gatherings, and outreach to the marginalized and poor of our day. Will you allow yourself to be touched by the wonder of the mystery unraveled in time?

In an attempt to delve into this mystery of love, the Church celebrates three separate Eucharistic Liturgies with three different sets of scripture readings. The Liturgy at midnight reminds us of the gift of a Child being born for us in a poor stable. Everyone in Bethlehem was busy coming and going. There was no room for him anywhere.

The Gospel for the Liturgy at dawn takes us into the fields in Bethlehem with shepherds. The revelation of the mystery of love came to them through the singing of angels. They did not understand the fullness of the message, but they listened and hastened to the stable, where they found the Child with his mother and Joseph.

In John’s gospel for the Liturgy during the day, we hear a proclamation of *unbelievable* news: “The Word became flesh and makes his dwelling among us.”

The Word has embraced space and time. The Mystery of Incarnation has come to be seen, heard, and received. “He came to what was his own and his own people did not accept him.” In the Incarnation we see absolute gift and love. We witness the Word stepping out of eternity and becoming one like us.

We all enjoy giving and receiving gifts. Can we be open this Christmas to accept the Gift of gifts? Will we take time to unwrap the Gift, reflect on it, treasure it, and act on it? Will we be **open to discover** new ways to birth Christ in time and share this gift with others? While the Gift offered to us on Christmas is almost too much to *take in*, *there is always more and more to be received and shared*. *Christ is still waiting to be birthed in time through each of us.*

“He became what we are in order that we might become what he is.” –St. Irenaeus