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NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

Christmas Day

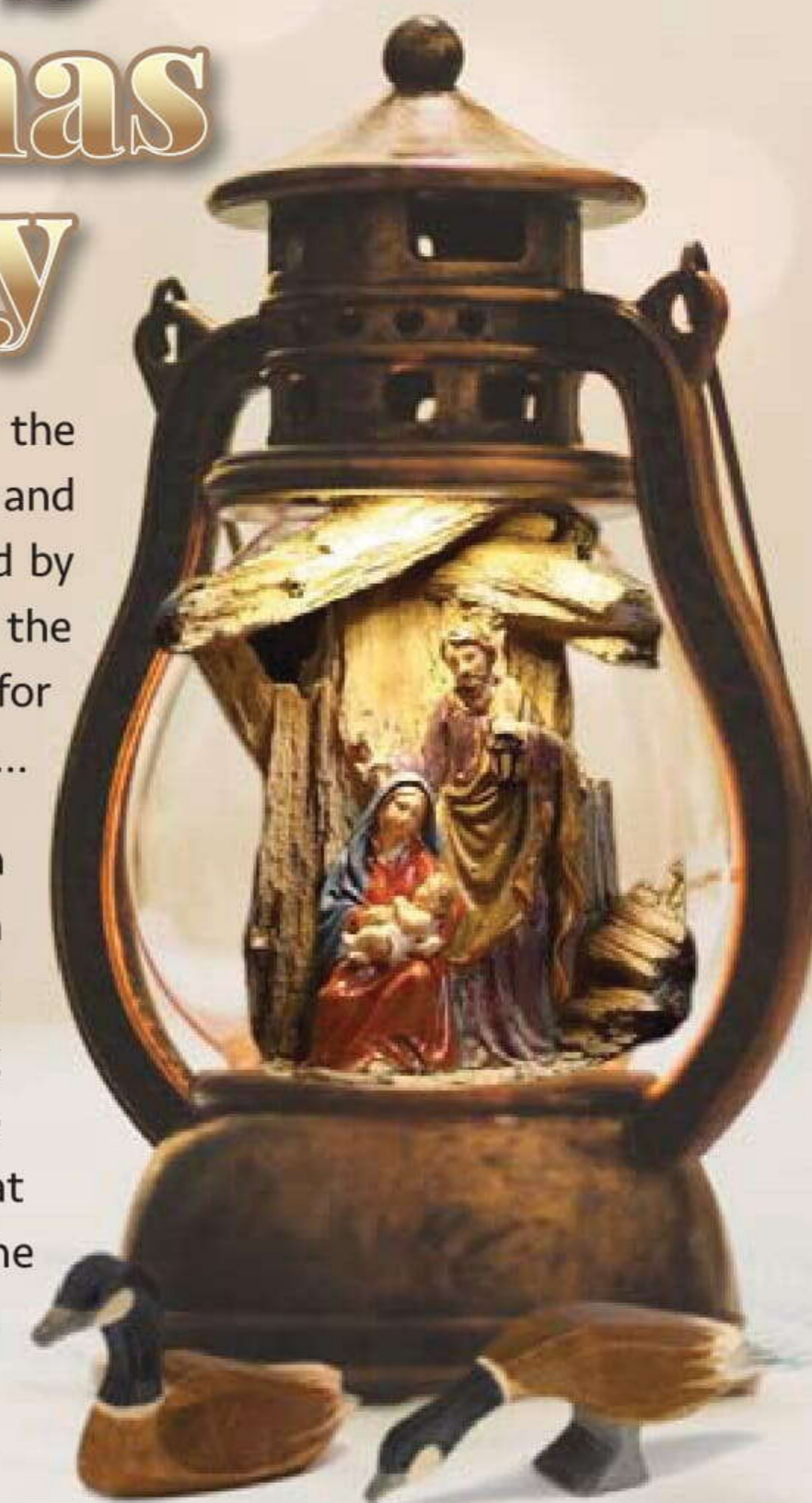
SALT OF THE EARTH AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD: COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION AND MISSION

God's Christmas Story

MONTHLY FOCUS:
CHRISTMAS SEASON
(25th DEC – 1st JAN 2023)

Throughout Israel's history, the covenant between God and humanity is always accompanied by sacrifice. Once again, we see the greatest sacrifice of God for mankind – God's Christmas story...

A blinding snowstorm with strong wind stranded a farmer in his barn. At that time, he saw a flock of wild geese circling aimlessly looking for shelter. He opened the barn doors so that they could come in and spend the night safely in the warm shelter.



SCRIPTURE QUOTE TO MEMORISE:

But in our own time, the final days, He has spoken to us in the person of His Son.

(Hebrews 1: 1-6)

The farmer waived at them, trying to catch their attention but they continued to fly purposelessly and did not notice him or the barn. He thought of ways to save them, and suddenly an idea struck him. He released his own geese to guide the flock of wild geese into the barn. The plan worked out when these wild geese started to follow the other geese back to the barn. They rested in the warmth of the safe shelter until the snowstorm was over.

The story of the farmer and the wild geese in a snowstorm is our Christmas. **There was a need for God to send His Son, Jesus to show us the way to salvation** when we were blinded and went astray like the wild geese. Remember that the true meaning of Christmas lies in the reason for Jesus' incarnation, God becoming Man - a union between divinity and humanity, brought by the loving initiative of God. Let us in the silence of our hearts recognize the true meaning of Christmas and God's sacrifice of giving us His Son to lead us back to the warmth of a safe shelter - salvation.

In the first reading, Isaiah speaks of the beauty the message holds, the restoration of Israel and the end of captivity in Babylon. He foreshadowed the ultimate message of salvation and the eternal reign of Jesus Christ, bringing an end to captivity of sin. He brought the freedom to experience life here to the fullest and life forever with him in heaven, spelling out the joy of the God of Israel that reigns.

In the second reading, we experience God's manner of communication when he speaks through an embodied Word, His Son. We hear of the Son's inheritance of all things and his presence at creation, the Son is the exact imprint of the Father. ❖

SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Isaiah 52:7-10;

Psalms 97: 1-6;

Hebrews 1: 1-6;

John 1: 1-18
(or 1: 1-5, 9-14)