



## *The Nativity of the Lord*

A familiar carol says it so beautifully and so well: *The happy Christmas comes once more.* And we are so glad that it does. Who is not happy when seeing a decorated Christmas tree standing in their home and giving off its fresh scents? Who does not enjoy hearing *The Messiah* sung over and over again? Who does not enjoy eating grandmother's cookies and other goodies? Who does not enjoy buying and giving presents? Who is not eager to get in a car or on an airplane and go for miles to be with friends and relatives? *But wait! Is this the heart and soul of Christmas?* There is absolutely nothing wrong with any of the above things, nothing. But remember this: these things are not central to our celebration of Christmas. ***There is only one thing that is the focal point of this holy time, and that is the birth of our Savior.***

Usually, the Christmas story is told to us in and through the words of Luke 2. That passage is moving; however, I want you to think about something in Galatians 4:1-7. It says, "When the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons." Notice the first seven words: "When the fullness of the time came. . . ." The birth of Jesus was no accident. He was born at just the right time. God had His eye on the clock of the world, and He sent His Son at the right moment, "in the fullness of time."

Think about something. The events of our lives do not happen in a willy-nilly fashion. We may be tempted to think that things happen in a haphazard way. No, God is still in control, and for those who live in faith and trust toward the Lord Jesus, things still happen "in the fullness of time." Because of original sin there is suffering in the world, and there can indeed be suffering in our very own lives. God does not will our suffering, or any natural disaster, or war. Our Incarnate God, our Savior Jesus Christ, has given us His very self so that we can extend His Love in a world shattered by sin. When you and I love the dear Lord, when we seek to know His will and follow it, when we faithfully attend Mass, when we keep a Holy Hour, when we pray the Rosary, then God tenderly arranges the events of our lives so that they come to us "in the fullness of time."

I give my blessing to you as we celebrate the joy and wonder of Christmas. But I challenge those who may only come to church at Christmas or Easter, to return to church each Sunday. Receive the eternal Son of God in the Mass, walk with Him, pray to Him, and make Him your life's companion. If you do this, you will indeed discover a new and profound meaning of "in the fullness of time."

In His Love,

Father Craig Lusk