

## **Father Jim's Weekly Bulletin Article for December 24 2017**

**The Nativity of Our Lord:** MERRY CHRISTMAS! Monday is Christmas Day. We celebrate the coming of Jesus, the Son of God, into our family. May he find himself always welcome among us. Next Sunday is the Feast of the Holy Family. We are invited into the home of Mary and Joseph to continue the celebration Jesus' birth. This is our home as well, with Mary as Our Mother. We are always welcome in Jesus' family.

**Readings for Christmas:** Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:1-20

**Readings for next week:** Genesis 15:1-6,21:1-3; Hebrews 11:8,11-12,17-19; Luke 2:1-40

**Reflection:** As part of their preparation to receive the sacraments, an unbaptized person will write their name in the Book of the Elect. The book forms a census of all who have joined themselves to God. It lists all who would be citizens of Kingdom of God. Christ wished to be joined to us. He wanted to be counted among the citizens of our world. God chose a time of census when the name of Jesus would be inscribed alongside the names of all humanity. We seek to share in divinity of God. God seeks to share in our humanity. The two come together and become one. Everything that separates us from God and one another is brought to light. Amazingly the light does not reveal the shame of our darkness. The darkness is itself expelled and ended. Christmas is a day of tremendous rejoicing. Everything we are is made new. We shine with the radiance of God.

1. Write out a copy of the Profession of Faith. Carefully reflect upon the words.

2. Sign your name. Invite other family members to sign as well.

**Prayer:** Father, we rejoice in the birth of your Son. We remember the time he walked among us and cherish the signs of his continued presence. This Christmas, Father, renew His presence within us. Strengthen us, and allow that through us Christ may be born anew.