



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

December 25, 2022: Christmas Day

The Birth of Jesus: Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.



Jesus is Born: We light the Christ Candle at the End of Advent

Each Sunday of Advent a new candle is lighted to mark time. The third candle is rose or pink, which is meant to remind us to rejoice (“Joy”). On the fourth Sunday of Advent (“Peace”), all four candles are lighted. Then, on Christmas Eve the Christ Candle is lighted along with all four Advent candles. Traditionally it is white and taller than the other candles.

A Prayer for Lighting the Candle

Lord, I have lit a candle, and in the stillness within its flame I glimpse your light.

Lord, I have lit a candle, and in the stillness with its warmth I sense your love.

Lord, I have lit a candle, and in the stillness of this moment I bring my prayer. Amen

What is the Christ Candle, the Center Candle?

The Christ Candle represents the light that the Son brought into the world when he was born a little baby, God in the flesh. The fact that the Advent candles remain on Christmas Eve puts the focus on this special moment of birth, the moment of transition from prophecy to fulfillment.

The Light of the World

The Bible uses light as a symbol many times, usually with its partner, darkness. At Christmas time we celebrate the birth of Jesus with light: [Christmas decorations inside and outside, and especially on Christmas trees](#), and we proclaim Jesus has brought the light which will drive away the darkness. “What has come into being in him [Jesus] was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. [John 1:3b-5]”

If you think about it, we don’t really see light, we see what light shows us. Our physical eyes need light to show us where we are and where we need to go, avoiding the many dangers around us. We have a natural fear of darkness because it hides those dangers. Jesus is the spiritual light that shows us where we are and where we need to go, avoiding the dangers around us.

*Even darkness is not darkness to Christ, the night is as bright as day,
for darkness is as light to you. (see Ps 139:12)*

May you have a Blessed Christmas!

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