

## Message Outline

Teaching Tradition: The Gift

Matthew 2:11, John 3:16



**Intro:** This Advent, looking at the Biblical text behind some Christmas traditions...

- Last three weeks, Traditions of Advent, Trees, and Lights...
- Today, gifts and Christmas (cf. Mt. 2:11)...
  - Significance of gifts...
  - History of Christmas gifts...
    - St. Nickolas (3<sup>rd</sup> century), Wenceslas (9<sup>th</sup> century)...
- The giving of a Person...
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**Read:** John 3:16

- God's gift is Jesus (cf. Rom.6:23, 5:15, Eph.2:8-10, Jn.4:10, 2Tim.1:6, Acts 8:20).

### Unwrapping God's Gift

1) U \_\_\_\_\_ Motive of the Gift

- The gift motivated by God's love (cf. Rom.5:8, 1Jn.4:8)...

2) U \_\_\_\_\_ of the Gift

- μονογενής: "single of its kind, only."
- God's not giving generic but His one and only Son!

3) U \_\_\_\_\_ of the Gift

- Inclusivity of Christianity... "whoever"!
- Not about color, class, caste, culture...all about Christ...inclusive offer!!!

4) U \_\_\_\_\_ the Gift

- The need for fingers of faith...
- True belief in the Bible moves the body to action...
- Abraham as an example of faith in action (cf. Jms.2:20-24)...

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent: Candle of Love



*<sup>18</sup> This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.*

*<sup>20</sup> As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."*

*<sup>22</sup> All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet:*

*<sup>23</sup> "Look! The virgin will conceive a child!*

*She will give birth to a son,  
and they will call him Immanuel,  
which means 'God is with us.'"*

*<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. <sup>25</sup> But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus.*

*-Matthew 1:18-25 NLT*