



*We all have favorite parts of the Christmas Season. For some, it is something simple like baking cookies, shopping for your loved ones, wrapping gifts, or just plain sitting and finally appreciating the decorating of our homes. Clearly, each of our hearts resonates strongly with a different part of Christmas. It is true that for some, Christmas can stir up painful feelings. But, whether Christmas is a joy or a challenge, we must not forget that the heart of Christmas, the truly best part, is the very presence of God's deep, personal, unconditional love for us all.*

*That is what makes Christmas so special! We are celebrating that one moment when God entrusted His only Son to us. It is a remarkable story... a child born in a stable, surrounded only by his parents, local shepherds and some travelers. While heaven was rejoicing, it was an event that mostly passed unnoticed. But, we certainly notice it today. Whatever our troubles, at Christmas we are reminded how that small vulnerable infant brought God's saving love into our lives. We want to share that love and joy with all of those whom we cherish and hold in our hearts even if they can't be with us in person.*

*We as a parish staff, take this opportunity to thank each of you from the bottom of our hearts for all the sacrifices you so unselfishly make to ensure that our good works of care and compassion continue. Because of all of you, we are able to share God's mercy and love with all.*

*Our prayer for you is that you are blessed by the joy of experiencing your favorite part of Christmas! Most of all, may you celebrate the birth of our Savior with your loved ones, and may the Christmas season and the year ahead be filled with health, happiness, and friendship.*

*Please be assured that you and your family are in our prayers and please remember us all in yours.*

***St. Theresa Parish Staff***

*Linda, Fr. Leonardo, Fr. Gilberto, Micie, Diana, Alexis, Alicia, Brian, Eduviges, Pam, Frank, and Alan*



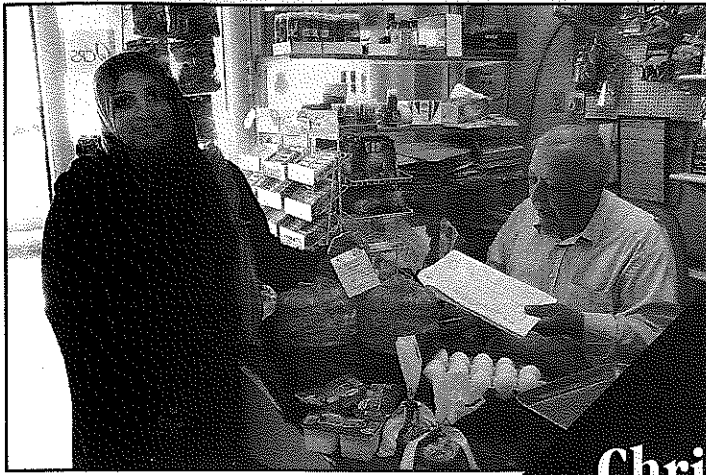
Season  
of Christmas

December 25, 2011 –  
January 8, 2012

loria in excelsis deo.

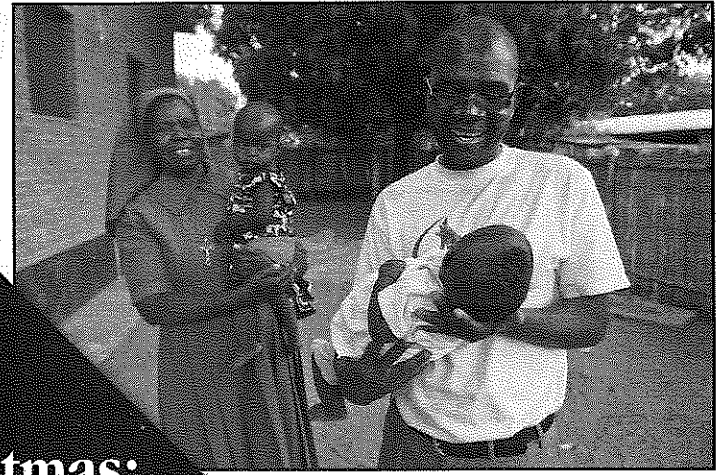
Glory  
in the  
Highest!





A Palestinian woman buys groceries, with the assistance of CRS, at a shop in the West Bank.

*Photo by Lynette Asselin for CRS*



Lusubilo (Hope) Orphan Care was founded by Sister Beatrice Chipeta (left) to help children and their caregivers. CRS has partnered with Lusubilo since 2005.

*Photo by Karen Kasmauski for CRS*

## Christmas: A Season for Justice

### Feeding Families in the Holy Land

After four decades of conflict, it's difficult to feed a family in the West Bank. Food is available, but prices are very high. Palestinians have few job opportunities and unemployment is rising.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has several programs to keep families from falling deeper into poverty. CRS provides food vouchers redeemable for locally produced bread, eggs and dairy, which simultaneously helps, stimulate the local economy.

Other Palestinian families exchange 25 hours of work per month on agricultural programs and receive staple food supplies.

Palestinian women, often the household breadwinner, receive similar food supplies by devoting 35 hours a month to learning vocations skills.

*Catholic Relief Services is the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. For more information please visit [crs.org](http://crs.org)*

### Good Life, Good Manners

It was the shock of seeing a little boy stealing and then singing about his exploits that first inspired Sister Beatrice Chipeta. The 'thief' was one of many orphans who took to the streets when the AIDS epidemic devastated families in Northern Malawi.

"If these children can learn to be thieves," the Rosarian nun thought, "then they can learn to live a good life and to have good manners."

Sister, herself an orphan, knew she couldn't help the children alone, so she approached the nearest villages, walking long distances to ask for help. Help came in abundance.

Today, 66 Lusubilo (Hope) communities serve 9,500 orphans and other children impacted by the AIDS epidemic, and Sister Beatrice continues to stay true to her mission of teaching children how to "live a good life and have good manners."

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# Prayers

## Daily Prayer for Christmastime

Lord Jesus, God from God,  
Guide my every thought today.  
*Heaven and earth, rejoice!*

Lord Jesus, my Redeemer,  
Let my lips speak only your word.  
*Heaven and earth, rejoice!*

Lord Jesus, my King,  
Fill my deeds today with your love.  
*Heaven and earth, rejoice!*

## Table Prayer for the Christmas Season

Glory to the newborn King!  
*Glory to the newborn King!*

Welcome, Lord Jesus Christ.  
May the gifts of this table  
Lead to lives of generosity.

*Glory to the newborn King!*

Dwell among us, Lord Jesus Christ.  
Let your presence make us  
Loving and kind toward all.

*Glory to the newborn King!*

Bless your children,  
Lord Jesus Christ.  
Bring all to your heavenly table,  
Your eternal feast.

*Glory to the newborn King!*

Bless our lives, bless this table;  
Consecrate us to live the gospel  
During this glorious season  
And always. Amen.

## Christmas Devotion to the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,  
From the heavenly household on high  
Look upon all earthly households today.  
*Pray for us!*

Holy Family,  
You were not welcome in Bethlehem;  
Embrace those rejected by the world.  
*Pray for us!*

Holy Family,  
You were sheltered in a stable;  
Protect those who have no home.  
*Pray for us!*

Holy Family,  
You heard the angels' song;  
Sing to us of heaven's joy.  
*Pray for us!*

Holy Family,  
You faithfully observed the divine law;  
Show us how to do the will of God.  
*Pray for us!*

Holy Family,  
Protected and guided  
By Saint Joseph,  
*Pray for us!*

Holy Family,  
Cared for, looked after  
By Holy Mary,  
*Pray for us!*

Holy Family,  
Fulfilled by the  
Presence of Christ,  
*Pray for us!*

Be our strength in life,  
Be our hope in the hour of death.  
*Pray for us. Amen.*