Suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying:

“Glory to God in the highest.”

Luke 2:13-14
Background on the Gospel Reading

Four Masses are celebrated for the feast of Christmas, and each is given its own set of readings to help us contemplate Christ’s birth. The Gospel for the vigil Mass on Christmas Eve is taken from the beginning of the Gospel of Matthew. The Mass at midnight proclaims the birth of Jesus using the Gospel of Luke. The Mass at dawn on Christmas morning continues the story of the birth of Jesus as found in Luke’s Gospel through the shepherds’ visit to the infant Jesus. In each of these Gospel readings, we hear portions of the Infancy Narratives with which we are familiar.

The Gospel for the Christmas Mass during the day is taken from the beginning of John’s Gospel, but this Gospel is not an Infancy Narrative like those found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Instead, John’s Gospel begins at the beginning, as it were, and presents the Creation story as the framework for announcing the Incarnation. John’s opening words, “In the beginning . . .” echo the opening verse of the Book of Genesis. This framework invites us to view Jesus’ birth from God’s perspective. Each of the Gospels makes clear that Jesus’ birth was the result of God’s initiative. However, John’s Gospel highlights that this was the divine intention from the very beginning, from the moment of Creation.

As we observe in today’s reading, the Gospel of John includes highly philosophical and theological language. One example that particularly stands out is John’s use of the expression, “Word of God.” This expression (logos in the Greek) borrows from a concept found in both Jewish and Greek thought. In Jewish thought, this phrase describes God taking action—for example, in the Creation story and in the Wisdom literature. In Greek, or Hellenistic, thought, the logos was understood as an intermediary between God and humanity. John and others in the early Church adopted this language to describe God’s incarnation in Jesus. As the term was used to express the trinitarian faith of Christians, the word Logos came to be equated with the Second Person of the Trinity.

In this prologue to the Gospel of John, the main themes that will be developed in his Gospel are introduced. These themes are presented as dualities: light/darkness, truth/falsehood, life/death, and belief/unbelief. We also hear in this prologue a unique aspect of John’s Gospel—the motif of testimony. John the Baptist was sent by God to testify about Jesus, the light. Others in this Gospel will also offer testimony about Jesus. The reader is invited to accept this testimony, which bears witnesses to Jesus, the Son of God. But even more directly, Jesus’ action and words will themselves testify to his identity with God as God’s Incarnate Word.

Thinking about Jesus’ birth in these theological and cosmological terms seems particularly appropriate as we celebrate the feast of Christmas in the darkness of winter. At this time, nature itself seems to remind us of the darkness of sin. Into this darkness, in the midst of our sinfulness, God comes to dwell among us. John’s Gospel reminds us that through the Incarnation, God saves us from the darkness of sin and makes us his children.
PRAYERS FOR PRIESTS - Please join us every Thursday immediately after the 8:00 Mass to pray for priests.

RESURRECTION PRAYER LINE MINISTRY
For prayer requests or to sign up as a volunteer call: 481-1170.

GIFT SHOP HOURS
Thurs. 7:50 - 10:00 a.m.
Sat: 2:30 - 4:45 p.m.
Sun. 8:00 - 12:00 p.m.
The Gift Shop is located at the front entrance of the church.

RESURRECTION CALENDAR
All events take place in the Parish Center unless otherwise stated.

Adoration, First Fridays, 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.
Bereavement & Beyond Ministry, Every Monday, 8:30 a.m.
For more information call Alouise 481-8168
Coffee & Donuts, Sundays after 10:30 Mass
Craft Club, Tuesdays, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Men’s Club, 2nd Monday of month, 7:00 p.m., Sept. - May
Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Novena, Saturdays after the 8:00 a.m. Mass, church
Prayer for Priests, Thursdays after the 8:00 a.m. Mass, chapel
RCIA, Sundays, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass, for info, 482-6883
Rel. Ed., September - May
Resurrection for Life, for info, call Judy at 287-1237
Resurrection Prayerline Ministry, call Deanna Latell 481-1170.
Rosary, before daily Masses and Tues. & Thurs., 1:30 p.m., chapel
Rosary Makers, 3rd Thursdays Oct. thru May, 9-11 a.m.
St. Vincent DePaul Board Meeting, 1st Tues. every month, 7:00 p.m. For SVDP assistance call 239-600-6749, or email, svdp@resurrectionch.org
Teams of Our Lady, call Joann for more information, 482-7982
Women’s Guild, 3rd Wednesday every month, 8:30 a.m.
Sept. - May

MEN’S CLUB
2nd Monday of month, 7:00 p.m., Sept. - May

MINISTRY OF THE SICK
IMPORTANT NOTE TO ALL PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS:
When admitted to the hospital please register as Catholic and notify the parish office immediately, 481-7171. Resurrection priests visit the hospitals daily.

To protect your privacy hospitals do not give out information on patients without their permission.

The following hospitals are attended to by the parish in which they are located:
*Gulf Coast Hospital - visited daily by St. John XXIII Parish, 561-2245
*Lee Memorial Hospital - visited daily by St. Francis Xavier Parish, 334-2161
*Lee Memorial and Hospice at Health Park - visited daily by St. Columbkille Parish, 489-3973

St. Vincent de Paul is very low on food! We are in need of tuna, canned chicken, rice, beans, cereal, pasta and sauce. We have also had a need for soap. We are very grateful for your kind, generous hearts!

If any parishioner is in need of assistance St. Vincent DePaul would be honored to help you.
Any requests will be kept strictly confidential. Call the SVDP President at 908-256-1871.

Thank You

WEEKLY OFFERING
December 18, 2016
Offertory: $32,331.92
Latin Mass: $307.00
SVDP: $704.00

First Friday Adoration
Please join us for 1st Friday Adoration. Friday, January 6th immediately after the 8:00 Mass

December 18, 2016
Offertory: $32,331.92
Latin Mass: $307.00
SVDP: $704.00

Thank You
Looking for peace?  
Needling hope?  
Feeling God’s love?  

RCIA is here for you!  
Resurrection Parish Center  
Call us, to ask your questions.  
We are here to listen...  
Peace, Hope, Love  
Awaits us through Faith  

Inquiry Classes available  
Call: Joanne MacPeek  
418-7171 ext. 216  

Resurrection Parish Mission Statement  
Convinced that Jesus communicates a new life to those who believe in Him, and that He was raised from the dead in order that we might live, we are united to the risen Lord as a people born anew to...  

RESURRECTION FOR LIFE  

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE ABORTION CLINIC AT 3900 BROADWAY, FT. MYERS EVERY 2ND SATURDAY (after the 8:00 Mass) FOR THE ROSARY  

“A Nation That Kills Its Own Children Is a Nation Without Hope.”  
~ Pope John Paul II  

MEN’S GOSPEL FORUM, NEW TIME  
Beginning immediately, we will meet every Friday morning at 8:30 AM in the Parish Hall. This new time will enable more of us to attend as we will begin promptly after the 8:00 Mass.  
ALL men of the parish are invited. How often in our daily conversations do we talk about a topic other than sports, politics, work, family, and things of this world? It is so refreshing to start your day discussing the Word of God with fellow parishioners and to share what the message of the coming Gospel means to us.  
Call Ange Ford for more information at 216-496-0269.  

Calling All Moms...  
You are invited to share in a new ministry for mothers!  

SWF Catholic Moms: Where mothers are nourished, strengthened and cherished, and families are celebrated!  

Come join fellow Moms......  
Every first and third Thursday of the month from 9:30-11:30 in the Church of the Resurrection Parish Hall  

For more information contact Amanda Gavini at:  
239-222-0452 or girlyamanda@yahoo.com
**Lighthouse Catholic Media Kiosk**

Check out our newest CD's, DVD's, Books and Pamphlets at the front entrance of the church.

It’s a great way to increase your knowledge and understanding of our beautiful Catholic Faith.

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**PLEASE HELP FEED THE HUNGRY!**

Your food donations will help St. Vincent DePaul, Catholic Charities, Soup Kitchen, South Ft. Myers Food Pantry. Drop food in boxes at vestibules in the church or Parish Center. The following is most needed: Canned fruit and vegetables (corn/peas/carrot/green beans). Canned meat (tuna/chicken/sausage/ham/Spam). Spaghetti noodles and sauce, Macaroni and Cheese, Maseca flour (small bags), Canned diced tomatoes, Tomato sauce, Cereal, Canned soups (prefer chicken), and Dry beans (pinto/red/kidney).

Thank you and God Bless!

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**ARE YOU NEW TO RESURRECTION PARISH?**

We would like to welcome you to our parish family. In order to better serve you, please fill out a registration card which is located at the entrances of the church and leave it with an usher or put it in the collection plate. You may also register by stopping by the church office. A reminder that one needs to be a registered member of a parish in order to be a Baptismal or Confirmation sponsor.

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**St. Andrew Catholic School Cash Raffle Tickets** are on sale through Sunday, January 15, 2017. Please stop and take a book or two from the box in the front door vestibule. The drawing will be held at 7:00 p.m. during the Festival. You may return the stubs and money to the collection basket, by mail, or in person at the Festival. Your annual support of this very important fundraiser helps our school to provide excellence in Catholic education. St. Andrew is excelling in every area, in great part to your faithful support. Thank you for your participation! A Very Merry, Blessed Christmas and Healthy, Peaceful New Year from the administration, faculty/staff and families of St. Andrew Catholic School!

---

**Perfect Love, Perfect Weakness**

- 2 Corinthians 12:9

February 4, 2017
from 8:30am to 9pm

**Young Adult Retreat**

St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary
10701 S. Military Trl.
Boynton Beach, FL. 33436

All Young Adults 18 to 30ish are invited

Come and spend the day praying and getting to know 500 other young adults from around Florida. You can register at SVPD.edu under “Events.”

Cost: $20

Hosted by St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary’s Seminarians

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"May the message of Christmas fill your life with joy and peace."

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**This week’s Sanctuary Candle:**

for **Albert C Kane** & **James DiPalma**

by JoAnn
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9231 Cypress Lake Dr., Fort Myers 481-4341

Parishioner
Dahlia Garcia
Broker-Associate
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