

Christmas 2010

QUEEN OF PEACE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA
Rev. Jeff McGowan

4:00 PM & 6:00 PM

1st Reading: Isaiah 9:1-6

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Psalm 96

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord all you lands.

2nd Reading: Titus 2:11-14

The grace of God has appeared.

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them.

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Are you on a secret mission? When we think about secret missions, we think about action heroes like Superman, Batman, Spiderman and, of course, James Bond. If we're thinking about superheroes in the Bible, we are thinking about Moses, David, Samson, Ruth or Deborah. But the truth is that most of the people in the Bible are not superheroes but average people just like us, with their own special strengths and weaknesses. God had a special mission for every one of them just the same.

The mighty Roman army was on guard as the people went to their home towns to register for that census. Fierce soldiers on horseback with their spears and swords laughed and talked with each other as they watched the boring lines of people on the road. The Roman soldiers of Jesus day thought they were protecting people and keeping peace. But the dark forces in the world project their own personal biases on others to achieve their own ends. They think they are protecting law and order but it is in truth what *they* think is best for *them* not what is best for the other people. Mary and Joseph looked like all the rest but they were on a secret mission. The Gospel liberates people, sets us free to

express our own talents and know we are loved by God and that is far more important than what the Roman leaders thought.

What do you think God's special mission is for you? If you imagine that you are God's secret agent, what might your assignment be?

Right now, your mission might be to love your family, to learn and to grow; surely God has that in mind for every one of us. But children, what about when you are older; what special mission do you think God might have for you then? If you are the kind of person who will say, "yes!" to God, He will have you do something very important for him in this world. God has a special mission for everyone, including you. Won't it be fun as you grow older and get to know God even better to find out what God's special mission for you might be? God created us to glimmer like the star, that's the good news!