



THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

Comic Surprises of an Advent God

While Catholic churches are still singing Advent hymns, secular society is already feasting Christmas. Abounding are commercial ads that try to reinvent Christmas as a season of consumerist spree for all buyers of any creed. Yet what sustains its quasi-religious aura is the ambient replaying of traditional carols in homes, megamalls, and public media –online or offline.

Christmas without carols is like a cowboy movie without horses. But just what again is the original gospel message that these songs are resounding?

9 December * 6:00-7:30 pm * Matthew 1:1-3:17

JOSEPH THE DREAMER

A man fathers a child –so common sense tells us. But Matthew's gospel reverses that: it is a helpless child, pursued by a vicious despot, that "fathers" a virtuous guardian.

10 December * 6:00-7:30 pm * Luke 1:1-3:38

MARY OF THE ANGELS

In our age that questions the existence of God, Christmas comes around with its décor peopled with lovely angels. Luke's gospel makes them sing of His saving presence.

11 December * 6:00-7:00 pm * Sacrament of Reconciliation follows ◀☀

SANTA VERSUS SCROOGE

Popular culture abounds with Christmas stories. Some trivialize the spirit of Christmas. Yet many others do recount – with creative fidelity– its perennial prophetic message.

ADVENT RETREAT * 9-11 December 2018
Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Parish * Lakeside, CA 92040