



FOCUS: GOD BECAME HUMAN
SO WE COULD BECOME DIVINE.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2019

(LEC. 204)

THE SEVENTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

(OPT. MEM. SAINT SYLVESTER 1, POPE)

1. 1 JOHN 2:18-21

2. JOHN 1:1-18

GOSPEL RELATED: CCC 151, 241, 268, 291, 423, 445, 454, 461, 473, 496, 504, 505, 526, 530, 594, 612, 705, 706, 717, 719, 1216, 1692, 1996, 2466, 2780, 2787 CSDC 121, 262

In the beginning was the Word ... and the Word became flesh.

These words come from John in today's Gospel, describing the infinite existence and power of God. The Word of God is eternal; he was there *in the beginning*. The Word of God created the world. *All things came to be through him*. And this same Word became a human in order to save *all* humans. God created the world and then he was born into it. *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us*.

But the eternal Word did not take on flesh as a mighty king to sit on a throne. The all-powerful God did not zap himself into being the wisest professor or having the powers of a super-hero. Rather, the all-powerful God became a baby, born of a woman, and delivered into the world without fanfare and without wealth.

The birth of this vulnerable baby opened salvation to all humankind. Through the life and work of the man he became, we have come to know the truth about God. God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, through whom we are redeemed. Further, *to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God*. As God took on the nature of a child in the stable, born in poverty, so we, too, can take on the divine nature of a child of God, born into the promise of eternal life.

In this Christmastime, as we assemble here as God's children, we have gratitude for the gift of eternal life – that God became one of us so we might share in his divinity for eternity.

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