

**DECEMBER 16, 2015 • WEDNESDAY**

**FIRST READING** (Is 56:1-3, 6-8)  
*(Ps 67)*  
**GOSPEL READING** (Jn 5:33-36)

In the First Reading, Isaiah points out that not only are the Remnants of Israel (the ones who survived the Babylonian Exile) gathered by the Lord, but also the righteous gentiles (goyim). So if the prophets gave testimonies to the truth so that the chosen people of God go back to his fold, now Jesus testifies in behalf of His Father who wishes that all nations be saved (Gospel).

**DECEMBER 17, 2015 • THURSDAY**

**FIRST READING** (Gen 49:2, 8-10)  
*(Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17)*  
**GOSPEL READING** (Mt 1:1-17)

The Star of David has six rays. But the Star of Bethlehem has fourteen. Jesus who comes from the line of Judah (First Reading) is rooted fourteen generations away from the Babylonian Exile which was fourteen generations away from David who is fourteen generations away from Abraham. And his foreparents included men and women of Israel and neighboring tribes who have been favored by Adonai (LORD).

**DECEMBER 18, 2015 • FRIDAY**

**FIRST READING** (Jer 23:5-8)  
*(Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19)*  
**GOSPEL READING** (Mt. 1:18-24)

From the shoot of David, God will raise up the Lord of our Righteousness, meaning the Lord who will bring us back to God (First Reading) and indeed The Gospel recounts to us the birth of Jesus, who is called *Emmanuel*, God is with us.

**Simbang Gabi Reflections/Homily Guides**



**DECEMBER 19, 2015 • SATURDAY**

**FIRST READING** (Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25)  
*(Ps 71:3-4, 5-6, 16-17)*  
**GOSPEL READING** (Lk 1:5-25)

In the First Reading, God hears Manoah's confusions, and a messenger is sent again to his wife so that they are able to accept the coming of Samson, the one who will be dedicated to the Lord. Likewise an angel appears before Zechariah and later, Elizabeth who at first had low self esteem, in her fifth month of pregnancy marvels at how God has taken away the disgrace people look upon her barrenness; she marvels at the favor God bestows on her (Gospel).

**DECEMBER 20, 2015 • FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
 (see separate PDF)

**DECEMBER 21, 2015 • MONDAY**

**FIRST READING** (Sgs 2:8-14 or Zeph 3:14-18a)  
*(Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21)*  
**GOSPEL READING** (Lk 1:39-45)

Song of Songs speaks of the changing of the season and the coming of the Beloved (First Reading) and the Gospel speaks about the visit of Mary to Elizabeth, and because Mary carries her son in her womb, Elizabeth is joyful that she is visited by her Lord as well. The coming brought the joyful change!

**DECEMBER 22, 2015 • TUESDAY**

**FIRST READING** (1 Sam 1:24-28)  
*(1 Sam 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8)*  
**GOSPEL READING** (Lk 1:46-56)

Hannah dedicates her son Samuel (*the Lord listens or in the name of God*) whom she asked from the Lord. She thus magnifies the Lord for the favor granted to her. In the same manner Mary sings her *Magnificat* to God, for having chosen her to be the Mother of the Savior- an act that will bring about change in the world.

**DECEMBER 23, 2015 • WEDNESDAY**

**FIRST READING** (Mal 3:1-4, 23-24)  
*(Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14)*  
**GOSPEL READING** (Lk 1:57-66)

The First Reading from the book of Malachi notes a very important aspect on the coming of the Messiah: the sending of a forerunner: Elijah. The Gospel Reading also presents the coming of the forerunner of Jesus, the Savior: John, a gift from God.

**DECEMBER 24, 2015 • THURSDAY**

**FIRST READING** (2 Sam 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16)  
*(Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29)*  
**GOSPEL READING** (Lk 1:67-79)

In the Book Samuel, YHWH Adonai promises to David: "I will raise up your heir after you... and I will make his Kingdom firm. / I will be a father to him, / and he shall be a son to me..." The Gospel presents Jesus as the prophet John proclaims the Most High who is an heir of David, the one who fulfills the prophecy, the Son of God who "shines to those who dwell in darkness and who guides our feet into the way of peace."

-Prepared by Hansel B. Mapayo, SSP