

9

Lighted Lanterns

Companion

Level B Reader

"**G**ood example is the most efficacious apostolate.
You must be as *lighted lanterns* and shine like brilliant chandeliers
among men. By your good example and your words, animate others to
know and love God."

~ *St. Mary Joseph Rossello*



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HOW TO USE:

This reader is divided into 9 units to coincide with the 9 units in Lighted Lanterns Level B.

It is meant to be used as a supplemental resource. Use it according to your student's abilities. Have them read it or you read it to them as you work your way through each unit.

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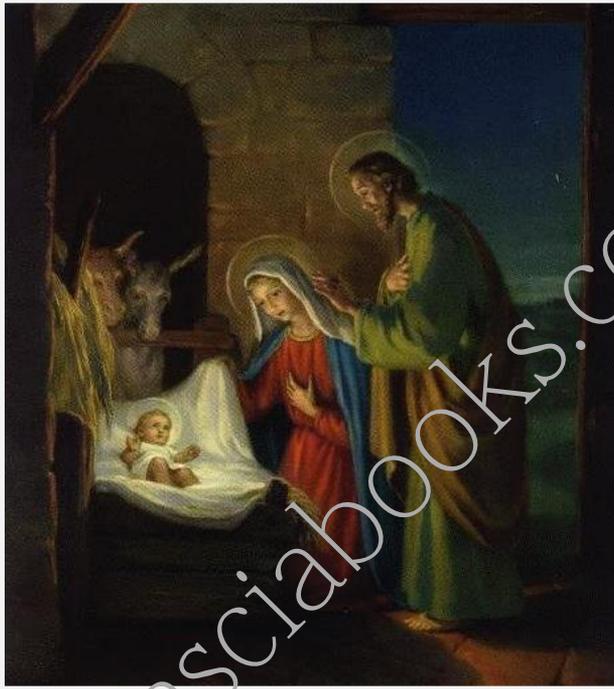
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Unit One

Our Lord

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THE SAVIOUR IS BORN



Joseph and Mary entered the cave. How dark, damp, and cold it was! Joseph raised his lantern to look around. The cave was just a large room carved out of rock. From cracks here and there, could be heard the continual drip, drip, drip of the water as it fell upon the ground.

In one corner was the manger – a rather large hole cut in the rock, where clean hay and straw were kept. Here Mary sat down to rest. In another part of the cave, an ox lay, quietly eating some hay. Joseph placed his donkey near the ox, and soon all was silent, without and within.

About midnight the cave suddenly brightened with a golden light. A sweet odour like perfume filled the air. The joyful music of angel voices was heard; for in that cave, Jesus, the Infant Saviour, was born. The Lord God of heaven and earth came into the world as a tiny Babe in the cave at Bethlehem.

Joseph knelt in silent adoration before the Holy Child. Mary kissed her Child again and again with all the tenderness of a fond mother's love. The joy of heaven was in her heart as she

gazed into the sweet face of the Infant Jesus. He was her Child and she loved Him as her Son and her God.

Now, the Blessed Virgin had no lovely crib in which to place her little Babe and she had no pretty clothes to give Him. So she wrapped Him up in swaddling clothes and placed him in the manger. Yes, a manger filled with straw in a cold, damp cave was the cradle of the Infant Jesus. A large cave dug in the side of a hill, a place without doors or windows, a shelter where the farmer kept his cows, was the first home of the Baby Jesus. How poor, how humble it was!

“The night is so cold,” said Mary. “What shall I do to keep little Jesus warm?” She had already taken the shawl from her own shoulders and wrapped the Christ Child in it.

But still He seemed cold. Just then the ox
and the donkey walked over to the manger.
They knelt before it and warmed the Holy Child
with their breath. Sinful men had no place for
Him in their homes in Bethlehem, but the ox
and the donkey welcomed Him in their cave.

HE COMES

HARK! Angelic voices chanting
Break the slumber of the night;
See! the dome of yonder dwelling
Hark! With harmony celestial
Seraph voices sweetly sing,
Glory to the Babe of Bethl'em,
Glory to the Infant King.

THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT



After the wise men left, King Herod sent his soldiers to find Jesus. He did not send them with gifts of love. Instead, he sent them with sharp swords. Jesus had come to earth to make everyone happy by making them good.

But Herod did not want to be happy with Jesus. He did not want to be good. He only wanted to kill Jesus. When King Herod heard the wise men say, “Jesus will make all of us happy. We will give Him our love,” he said to himself:

“I have heard that when Jesus grows up, He is to be made the King of the Jewish people. But I will kill Jesus. I will do it before anyone can hide Him away. Then Jesus will never be the King. I will be the only King.”

But God knew Herod’s plans. He heard Herod tell the soldiers to kill Jesus. God sent an Angel to tell Saint Joseph: “Take Jesus and His Mother away. Go quickly to Egypt, because Herod wishes to kill the Child.”

Joseph got up from bed, for it was night. He woke Mary. They picked up their things and

bundled them together. They fastened the bundle to the donkey's back. Before morning came, before the stars were out of the sky, Joseph and Mary had started on the way to Egypt, carrying Jesus to safety.



God was pleased with Joseph. God watched over Jesus, Mary and Joseph in Egypt. After King Herod died, God sent an Angel to tell Saint Joseph this news. Then Joseph and Mary brought Jesus back to His own country. Jesus grew older each day, just as other children grow; just as you are growing now. But that is a different story.

LUKE CHAPTER 2:40-52

And the child grew, and waxed strong, full of wisdom; and the grace of God was in Him. And His parents went every year to Jerusalem, at the solemn day of the pasch. And when He was twelve years old, they going up into Jerusalem, according to the custom of the feast, and having fulfilled the days, when they returned, the Child Jesus remained in Jerusalem; and His parents knew it not.

And thinking that He was in the company, they came a day's journey, and sought him among their kinsfolks and acquaintance. And not finding Him, they returned into Jerusalem, seeking Him.



And it came to pass, that, after three days, they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard Him were astonished at His wisdom and His answers. And seeing Him, they wondered.