

The Nativity

This volume offers original insights into the religious transformations taking place in postsocialist western Ukraine. Applying a cognitive theory based on two modes of religiosity, the doctrinal and the imagistic, author Vlad Naumescu reveals the mechanisms of reproduction and change that make the local eastern Christian tradition a living tradition of faith. He combines rich ethnographic materials with historical and theological sources to depict a religion in equilibrium between the two modes, maintaining revelation at the core of its doctrinal corpus. He argues that religion is a potential source for social change that empowers people to act upon reality and transform it. With his innovative exploration of the dynamics of an eastern Christian tradition, Naumescu makes a major contribution to the emerging anthropology of Christianity as well as to studies of postsocialism. Christians are faced every day with daunting choices between difficult alternatives. What does my Christian faith have to say about the moral issues that divide our society? There are plenty of people on opposite sides of the spectrum claiming to know the will of God in these matters. It is nonetheless very difficult to find help in looking at both sides of these ethical questions and applying the biblical witness to arrive at an authentically Christian belief about

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them. This is precisely what Adam Hamilton proposes to do. Presented as a collection of sermons, *Confronting the Controversies* includes euthanasia, assisted suicide, creationism, abortion, and homosexuality. Scrupulously fair to both the positions of each side and their motivations for holding them, Hamilton offers clear, concise information on what is at stake in these explosive issues. Hamilton applies a careful, broad reading of Scripture to offer direct yet compassionate guidance on what a faithful Christian response will be. This book is set up for group study, with discussion questions at the end of each chapter. Was there a meaningful stellar sign over Bethlehem? What did it look like to someone looking up at the night sky? Did wise men really come from the East seeking Israel's Messiah sometime after the birth of Jesus? The biblical account of the wise men and the star that announced the coming of the Messiah of Israel has inspired and puzzled people for two millennia. Important aspects of Babylonian astronomy seem to be involved in understanding the star's appearing. But in addition, *The Lion Led the Way* also explores the men and events from a profoundly Jewish perspective. The traditional Jewish names of stars and planets, Jewish symbols, as well as Jewish dates, all seem to be keys to unlocking the mystery of the famous star. The star of Bethlehem was not the brightest of the heavenly lights, nor was it the most spectacular starry

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manifestation of all time. However, it was part of the most meaningful set of celestial events in human history. The God of Israel is surprising. His ways are not our ways; his thoughts are not our thoughts. The star gives us a concrete example of God's intervention in the universe. Book website: www.star-of-bethlehem.info

Flower, a Story of the Nativity Habitation of Chimham Publi

Explores Christmas traditions, including stories, Santa Claus, and holiday menus
A retelling of the Bible's nativity story is complemented by illustrations that chronicle the birth of Jesus.

Confraternities and their contribution to the fabric of society have become invisible history for us today. Although their activities began in the Renaissance and continued until the end of the Enlightenment, confraternities have not yet found a place in the standard histories of the period, or even in the histories of religion or of the Church. With "The Boys of the Archangel Raphael," Konrad Eisenbichler brings to light the daily life and history of one such organization from its founding in 1411 to its final suppression in 1785. While focusing on the Compagnia dell'Arcangelo Raffaello, the first confraternity to be established in Florence, the author also discusses other, similar organizations. By constantly comparing developments across several confraternities, the book provides us with insight into the entire phenomenon of premodern lay religious associations for youths. The study is firmly grounded on archival and contemporary

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documents, and covers a variety of fields of interest: social history, church history, the history of childhood, and the history of art, literature, and music. "The Boys of the Archangel Raphael" will be the authoritative work on youth confraternities for years to come. Winner of the Howard R. Marraro Prize of the American Catholic Historical Association.

From the architectural spectacle of the medieval cathedral and the romantic sublime of the nineteenth-century panorama to the techno-fetishism of today's London Science Museum, humans have gained a deeper understanding of the natural world through highly illusionistic representations that engender new modes of seeing, listening, and thinking. What unites and defines many of these wondrous spaces is an immersive view—an invitation to step inside the virtual world of the image and become a part of its universe, if only for a short time. Since their inception, museums of science and natural history have mixed education and entertainment, often to incredible, eye-opening effect. Immersive spaces of visual display and modes of exhibition send "shivers" down our spines, engaging the distinct cognitive and embodied mapping skills we bring to spectacular architecture and illusionistic media. They also force us to reconsider traditional models of film spectatorship in the context of a mobile and interactive spectator. Through a series of detailed historical case studies, Alison Griffiths masterfully explores the uncanny and unforgettable visceral power of the medieval cathedral, the panorama, the planetarium, the IMAX theater, and the science museum.

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Examining these structures as exemplary spaces of immersion and interactivity, Griffiths reveals the sometimes surprising antecedents of modern media forms, suggesting the spectator's deep-seated desire to become immersed in a virtual world. *Shivers Down Your Spine* demonstrates how immersive and interactive museum display techniques such as large video displays, reconstructed environments, and touch-screen computer interactives have redefined the museum space, fueling the opposition between public and private, science and spectacle, civic and corporate interests, voice and text, and life and death. In her remarkable study of sensual spaces, Griffiths explains why, for centuries, we keep coming back for more.

Illustrates the story of the birth of Jesus and the arrival of the wise men and shepherds at the manger.

This delightful holiday tale tells the story of a precious, adorable Little Star, who has always looked through the lens of other people's success, talents, and achievements with envy and covetousness. Even though Little Star is a bit of a Sassy Frassie and speaks her truth, she has the saddest, overwhelming heartbreak of discontentment and the worst annoying heartache of disillusionment. Why? You ask. Because she always wants to be anything and everybody other than herself. However, she learns very quickly through a series of hard lessons tried and applied, that being someone or something other than you is a very difficult thing to do. Indeed! But with the much-needed help and the much-needed love of the Lord God Almighty, she finally finds the

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true contentment she has always wanted""in the place Little Star never thought was truly possible. And in the meantime and between time, our precious, adorable Little Star watches in amazement how the biblical story of the Savior's birth plays out before her. The nativity scene with the birth of the Son of God helps Little Star to realize the true meaning of Christmas, and why the Child is the real reason for the season. Amen! Hallelujah! Praise Him! The Christmas Star is a wonderful Christmas gift to you, wrapped in a beautiful box of joy, love, and magical transformation! Tied with a lovely colorful ribbon of divine Majesty and sealed with a big kiss of merriment and holiday cheer! Enjoy, Merry Christmas!

Each volume includes list of members, and "objects of the institute" (except v. 31, which has no list of members). Beginning with v. 12, a list of the papers contained in preceding volumes is issued regularly with each volume.

Are you tired of the materialistic craziness of Christmas celebrations? Instead of relishing the wonder and joy of the holy holiday, we stumble through in a commercial haze, feeling exhausted and ready for it all to be mercifully finished. Is there an alternative to this commercial dilemma? Happily there is! What we need is not only permission to reclaim our sacred season, but also creative ideas for peace-filled, stress-free, and meaningful celebrations. A plethora of delightful and diverse ideas can help your family not only to anticipate the season but also to grow closer through Advent and enjoy the holy season in a more meaningful, other-centered way.

In this collection of essays, outstanding scholars and pastors reflect on the many "languages"

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of the Catholic liturgy--the aural, spatial, temporal, kinetic, and iconic--which blend together into a single voice, a single act of praise.

This Christmas join the De La Fuentes and McKenzies in Blossom Creek as they celebrate the grand opening of Emelia's Restaurant. Over twenty years after Levi De La Fuente's parents opened the first Emelia's, Levi and his cousin Ryan are getting ready to open a second location. Emma De La Fuente manages the first Emelia's in Essex, Vermont for her parents. She's in town to assist her brother and cousin in getting the new restaurant ready for its grand opening. However, she didn't plan on the strong attraction she feels toward the town Sheriff. The man with his sweet words and heated looks has managed to derail her plans on returning home. While his sister is distracted, Levi finds himself in need of rescuing from a rather embarrassing situation. Luckily for him, Vivien Taylor, owner of Temptations, Blossom Creek's handmade chocolate store, appears just at the right time. If only he didn't crave the sweet woman, then maybe, this situation wouldn't be so awkward. Blossom Creek just might be warm enough to melt the snow this holiday season.

In many of his books, John L. McKenzie has confined himself to the exposition of one theme. Here is a chance to encounter his thinking on a wide variety of biblical topics--a first-rate sampling of McKenzie at large. Besides the title chapter, he focuses on (among others) such intriguing subjects as "The Real Jesus," "The Real Mary," "The State in Christian Perspective," "War and Peace in the New Testament," "Myths in the Bible," "The Book of Revelation"--and concludes with "The Bible: A Progress Report." The Bible does not so much give answers as lead to answers. It puts the right questions directly in a form which does not permit evasion. It confronts us with challenges to action which are urgent. McKenzie does well to dig out and

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squarely state the hard questions which the Bible presents to the modern world. Women of Bible Lands is an anthology of biblical and early stories about Jewish, Christian, and Muslim women from the nineteenth century B.C.E. to the ninth century C.E. Ancient words and journeys strengthen modern readers for a challenging pilgrimage from the head to the heart as they travel in spirit through the Holy Land to Greece, Turkey, and North Africa. Kirk's book, which is the first guide book to biblical sites associated with women, not only fills a void, but does so in an inspirational and imaginative way. Part One: Reclaiming Women's Stories and Journeys discusses the types of women that have been remembered in the Christian tradition and examines the scarcity of women's writings and the possibilities of women's oral tradition within the Bible and other early sources. Chapters in Part One are: Shards and Stories," *As a Mother Hen Gathers Her Brood Under Her Wings, '- *The Pilgrimage to the Womb of Compassion, - *Seeking the True Cross, Seeking the True Helena, - *Ascetic Life, an Inner Journey; Paula and Egeria, Their Outer and Inner Journeys, - and *Guides for Reading. - Part Two: Stories, Sites, and Maps includes introductions to the sites, maps, information about or by women or female images of God, and selections from the Bible or an early Hebrew, Greek, Latin, Coptic, Syriac, or Arabic text. Chapters in Part Two are: *The Old City of Jerusalem, - *Other Sites in Jerusalem, - *Sites in Israel and Palestine, - *Sinai, Egypt, and Tunisia, - *Iran, Iraq, Jordan, - *Lebanon and Syria, - *Greece and the Mediterranean Islands, - and *Turkey. The title of this book, Very Short Reflections--for Advent and Christmas, Lent and Easter, Ordinary Time and Saints--through the Liturgical Year, accurately describes its contents. Chapter 1 presents a short reflection for every day of the Advent Season. Chapter 2 does the same for every day of the Christmas season. Lent is covered in chapter 3, the Sacred Paschal

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Triduum in chapter 4, and the fifty days of the Easter season in chapter 5. Chapter 6 covers Ordinary Time. And chapter 7 presents a short reflection for every solemnity, feast, and memorial of saints, whose special day falls during the liturgical year. The short reflections are based on sets of Mass texts--Entrance Antiphon, Collect, Prayer over the Offerings, Preface, Communion Antiphon, Prayer after Communion, and Prayer over the People--presented for every day of Advent and Christmas, Lent and Easter, Ordinary Time and saints in The Roman Missal. The reflection identifies the theme of the day and presents how it is manifested in the Mass texts. These very short reflections are designed to expose to the reader the liturgical spirituality that emanates from the Mass texts.

Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year—or at least we want it to be. Too often our celebration of Jesus' birthday is overwhelmed by bright lights and tinsel, overspending and overeating, plus constant chatter about a “war on Christmas.” Can't we do better than this? There are two Christmases. One is sacred. One is secular. The two have clashed in one “culture war” or another for 1,700 years. Christmas is not (as some falsely claim) a pagan holiday, but pagan-influenced traditions are part of the seasonal clutter. Keeping Christmas is about helping you find joy in a season of excess and strife. Part survival guide, part history, part cultural commentary, and all laced with spiritual reflection, this book is about how you can celebrate in ways that are most meaningful to you and your family. It's not easy to thread your way through the Christmas maze. But if Ebenezer Scrooge could learn to keep Christmas well, so can you. Maybe it's time to reinvent Christmas. Maybe we can get it right this time.

Flower is a formidable woman who, along with her husband Mordecai, runs the most respected inn in all of Judea. She loves her husband, friends, all children and babies. But she has

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problems; the angels Gabriel and Michael are visiting her, thieves are plotting her murder, Romans are invading her beloved Bethlehem, she has the reputation of being the strongest 'man' in the city, and with the census in full swing, traffic is gridlocked and parking is difficult at the market. Flower, a Story of the Nativity, is not the typical Nativity Story. It is a gritty, exciting, and realistic adventure story. While some of the characters are fictitious the people and events are patterned as realistically as possible after what we know of the circumstances. With that in mind, this book is true to the Biblical accounts. Additionally, it addresses many questions; Who were the Wise Men, Where were they from and what became of them? What was the Star of Bethlehem? How did Gabriel and Michael interact with people? Why was there a census? Why did God allow the innocents to be murdered? Why are the genealogies in Matthew and Luke different? Why does Luke say Jesus was taken to Nazareth after his birth but Matthew says he fled to Egypt, and many more.

Andrew Graham-Dixon's weekly column In the Picture in the Sunday Telegraph is one of the most regularly and widely read pieces of art criticism in Britain. This book takes 52 of the best of these articles, arranged through the seasons, festivals and anniversaries of the calendar, the provide a pictorial commentary on the year. Some of the pictures are well known: Fourteen Sunflowers in a Vase by Vincent Van Gogh, Flag by Jasper Johns; Graham-Dixon helps us to see them freshly. But many are not: Fish and Sandwich by Patrick Caulfield, The Beach at Trouville - The Empress Eugenie by Eugene Boudin and Atom Piece by Henry Moore. The essays provided offer a short introduction to each.

Holy days and holidays, special times and ordinary time, the celebration of the church year adds spiritual meaning and depth to our lives as Christians. Around the Year in

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Children's Church is a resource created to help children understand and celebrate the entire liturgical year from the first Sunday of Advent through Kingdombtide. Around the Year in Children's Church is filled with fifty-two active, hands-on programs. Each featuring a simple Christian message related to the season of the church year or a particular holiday; a Bible verse; a story; a prayer; a time for sharing; a snack; and a musical activity, a craft, or a game. The programs are structured to last from thirty-five to forty minutes. An additional activity is included for those who want to extend Children's Church to a full hour. Supplies and set-up are kept to a minimum, and the easy-to-use format makes it just right for today's busy teacher.

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