

St. Timothy Centering Prayer December 25

- Opening bell signals our intention to be present with God
- Gathering Prayer

O God, in our overwhelming joy we receive the great gift of your Son Jesus, so that we might no longer stumble in darkness, but walk confidently in the light of your all-encompassing love. Open our hearts and minds to fully embrace Christ, so in turn we may embrace one another. **Amen.**

Lectio divina: *Isaiah 9:2;6* The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Bell tolls to begin and end our meditation time (20 min)

- Celebration of Eucharist

Poem: *In the Bleak Midwinter*, Christina Rossetti, 1872

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

- Silent Dismissal