

Lyceum 127.5 - January 1, 2026 – a forum to Think, Discuss, Share, and Learn from one another. Your input is welcomed - Iron sharpens iron.

Neighborhood “The 1826, in Connecticut, a farmer named Josiah Holbrook started a school for ‘the general diffusion of knowledge and raising the moral and intellectual taste’ of Americans. In those days, the opportunities for higher education were limited to those venerable old universities that had long served the upper crust. Holbrook’s vision was to make learning – practical, liberal, and humane – available to working people of all kinds. He named his school the Lyceum, after the garden where Aristotle once taught his students philosophy.... We need to go deeper than the superficial fights that characterize public life. We need to return to the first principles and meet each other there as human beings.” – Nathan Beacom, Plough Magazine, Autumn 2023, p. 9.

Giving you a chance to review and to bring to a closure the final week of Christmastide, and the 12 days of Christmas coupled with New Year’s resolutions. – Wishing you and your loved ones a Happy, Healthy, and Holy New Year. -Roger J. Vanden Busch.

Final review of Christmastide – January 1 to January 4.

Thursday – January 1 – Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God. -Experience the moment.

Ethical word- intuitionism - In ethics, the view associated with G.E. Moore that knowledge of ultimate good and morality is apprehended directly by some special faculty in us of moral sense.

“Action indeed is the sole medium of expression for ethics.” -Jane Addams.

Why did the snow man stick its head in a bag of carrots? Answer: to pick its nose.

1. New Year’s resolutions to BE even a better person - “To BE or nt
B - that is the question.” Hamlet: Hamlet, III. I, 56.

2. **Be Spontaneous.** Be uninhibited! Allow yourself to act freely, without restrictions. Not everything has to adhere to a plan all the time. Allow yourself to just go with the flow.
3. **Be Sympathetic.** If others are sharing their problems with you, be sympathetic. Don't jab in with insensitive remarks. Don't dismiss their feelings and thoughts. Get yourself into the same state as them and express your sympathy, so they know they're not alone in the situation.
4. **Be Tactful.** There's no need to be rude or abrasive. Be polite to your fellow humans — everyone has feelings, even if sometimes it may not seem that way.
5. **Be a teacher.** You don't have to be a teacher by title. The very act of sharing knowledge with someone is teaching. By teaching others, we become better. What are things that you're good at? Share knowledge with other people. Start by doing it informally, and soon formally teaching others will be second nature to you. Knowledge is to be shared which was the reason why I began writing reflections on the weekly scriptures since 1983, and I have and am blessed to be able to share this gift of God with you.
6. **Be Trusting.** Always give others the benefit of the doubt. No matter what you think, the baseline intention of people is usually good. No one deliberately does something to harm others. When they do, it usually comes from a place of lack, not out of sheer malicious intent. At the same time, don't let others take advantage of you.
7. **Be Trustworthy.** Always honor your commitments and uphold your promises. If you make an agreement with someone, be sure to stick to it.
8. **Be Unattached.** For all things are transient in life. This doesn't mean you become jaded and emotionless beings. What this means is you relish every moment of your life, every situation you're in, every person you're with, as it is, without clinging on to it when it has passed. For we live in the present, not the past or future.
9. **Be Understanding.** Learn to comprehend things from others' perspectives. You need a common understanding to build relationships.
10. **Be Vigilant.** While the world is a safe place by and large, keep a watch out for possible dangers, especially when you're in a foreign place. Keep a look out for suspicious people. Stay clear of potentially dangerous spots. It's better to be safe than sorry.

11. **Be Visionary.** Set the highest goals and the biggest dreams you can imagine!
Then set off and bring your vision to life.
12. **Be Vulnerable.** Sharing our vulnerabilities is what gives us the greatest strength as humans.
13. **Be Wise.** Having the power of discerning and judging properly as to what is true or right; possessing discernment, judgment, or discretion. Practice good judgment by exposing yourself to different contexts; considering different perspectives; gathering as much information as you can; weighing out different possibilities. The more experience you gain, the more you learn, and the wiser you'll become.

Friday – January 2 - Rekindle hope.

Ethical word- problem of evil - The view that a benevolent, omnipotent, omniscient God is incompatible with the existence of real evil in the world.

“The time is right to always do what is right.” – Martin Luther King Jr.

What kind of motorcycle does Santa like to ride?

Answer: A Holly Davidson

Saturday – January 3 - Write a Haiku – here is mine –“Slowly falling flakes, landing on our eager tongues, announcing winter.” -rvb.

Ethical word- greatest happiness principle - A view central to Jeremy Bentham and utilitarianism, holding that moral action requires that the greatest good be attained for the greatest number of beings, regardless of who the individuals who receive that happiness.

“A man without ethics is a wild beast loosed upon this world.” – Albert Camus.

What is Santa’s favorite sandwich”

Answer: Peanut Butter & Jolly

Sunday - January 4 - The Epiphany - The End of Christmastide - Practice joy

Ethical word – justice - Commonly divided into retributive and distributive, the former deals with punishments that correct the imbalance to society caused by a crime; the latter concerns the fair allocation of benefits and burdens of in society.

“Only morality in our actions can give beauty and dignity to life.” – *Albert Einstein*

What is the best thing to put into a Christmas cake?

Answer: Your teeth.

Final review of the 12 Days of Christmas - Thursday- Day 9 – January 1 - Mary, Mother of God.

Thursday – Day 9 - January 1 honors Mary in many traditions, a day for contemplating consent and courage. Nine ladies dancing can symbolize joy that moves through the body and the year. You might bless your home's doorway and ask for peace over each room.

Share a quiet breakfast, then take a gratitude walk. Let celebration be gentle rather than loud, honoring those who need rest. The first steps of the year can feel like a slow, hopeful dance.

Friday - Day 10 – January 2 – SS. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen.

January 2 often celebrates Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, friends who sharpened each other's wisdom. Ten lords a leaping may echo authority set right by love's justice. Speak the name that steadies you when anxieties crowd your mind and let compassion guide your power.

Saturday - Day 11 – January 3 – The Most Holy Name of Jesus.

January 3 Eleven pipers piping can call doctrine sung with charity. Write a short note of encouragement using someone's name with care. Names matter, shaping dignity and belonging. The year begins honoring identities with honesty and tenderness.

Sunday - Day 12 – January 4 - Epiphany and Twelfth Night.

Epiphany crowns the season as the Magi arrive, guided by a star toward generous awe. Twelve drummers drumming can echo the steady beat of apostolic witness.

As decorations come down, keep the light by practicing hospitality. Let seeking hearts and open doors become your closing carol. The journey does not end here it begins again in everyday love.

May the light of the Christmas star shine upon us on throughout 2026 – let us rejoice and be glad for Jesus says, “I am the light of the world.” If we live with Jesus daily, we not only have the light of His grace and mercy, but we become a light for others. It is not our light; it is Christ’s light reflected in our lives as this evening’s moon reflects the sun of our universe and the Son of God. Compared to Jesus, our might may only be a candlelight, however, it is still light that we seek to experience this evening. The world, in certain situations and places, still is in darkness because we, human beings, choose to live in the darkness of social injustices, unwilling to accept and promote, as the Gospels challenge us, that human rights are universally relative for every human being wherever there is still light in the world today during the New Year – 2026. – rvb.