

Monday digest

December 9, 2013

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New today from the *Century*:

- The editors on [the pope's joyous gospel](#): "As Francis sees it, the joy of the gospel is rooted in an experience of God's love in Jesus. And this gospel gets people involved in the world's messiness."
- Carol Howard Merritt on [Rick Warren and the contraception mandate](#)
- Merritt on [the virtues of debt](#)
- Jason Byassee on [Twelve Years a Slave](#): "The movie pulls no punches. As a white southerner, I found myself objecting that it couldn't have been as bad as this all the time. But these horrors happened, and we have yet to face them squarely."
- Daniel Harrell [blogs the lectionary](#)

In the news:

- [Early-returning Mormon missionaries often face stigma](#)
- [Catholic high school fires teacher who applied for gay marriage license](#)