

## **Light Shines in Darkness**

by [Bonnie Thurston](#) in the [December 2022](#) issue

Everybody knows Christmas  
is good for business.  
To attract the tourist trade,  
our town council cheerfully  
promotes an annual  
“Festival of Lights,”  
the lurid illumination  
of a normally pastoral park.

Neighborhoods take up  
the gauntlet, festoon  
with energy-guzzling lights.  
In a bid to replace outdated  
plaster of Paris crèches,  
immense inflatables,  
snowmen, cartoon characters,  
claim center stage on lawns.

But a blurry, early morning  
Advent communicant might,  
on her sleepy way to Mass, see  
nature-enforced genuflection  
in heaps of deflated plastic around  
some old concrete Holy Family:  
kneeling Joseph, blue-robed Mary,  
the Mystery in the manger.