

## Christmas Story

by [Bonnie Thurston](#) in the [December 2023](#) issue

I didn't brave the frigid temperature  
to attend the Christmas Eve liturgy.  
I went to the 10:30 a.m. Eucharist  
when it was marginally warmer.  
Driving slowly, carefully home, I saw  
in the Medical Building's entrance,  
a man was surrounded by his stuff.  
I'd once noticed someone sleeping there.  
However will he endure this cold?  
The Salvation Army is on this block.  
Should I stop to tell them about him?  
Old, widowed church ladies don't  
take in homeless men for Christmas.  
But perhaps, my sisters, we should.  
Perhaps this is St. Joseph who  
first shepherded Mary and her babe  
to the Catholic's warming center.  
Maybe he is Jesus whom yearly  
we hymn in beauty by candle light  
then leave to freeze to death  
on some anonymous doorstep.