

## *Michael and the Christmas Story*

Michael finished eating turkey, dressing and potatoes too  
Thanksgiving seems so boring with nothing much to do  
ask him what they did and he'll say "Sat around and ate"  
but Christmas is only 4 weeks away and he can hardly wait.

Moms has a very long list of things she has to buy  
but when she sees Michaels list, she's quite horrified  
She thought, 'He is too focused on what he wants to get  
Perhaps a church activity will help his attitude re-set'

She had an idea and asked in a very subtle way,  
"Michael, How would you like to be in the Nativity play?"  
He looked confused and couldn't remember what 'Nativity' meant  
"When Jesus was born?" she said, "You know, The Advent?"

Then he remembered, and tried not to look too mad  
but agreeing with mom before Christmas could never be bad  
Then as he thought and thought, a plan started to unfold  
He could be the Angel, or Joseph or a King with gold

"I'd love to" He said as he saw a chance to be a star  
he was tired of being 'average' he wanted to go far  
he was always chosen last when he played baseball  
This was his big chance to finally rise above them all

He practiced as the Angel and speaking with a deep voice.  
he practiced being a King, either would be a good choice  
Even as a shepherd, the audience would be very near  
And all would see the beginning of his acting career

His mind ran beyond the play as he thought of things to come  
TV, Broadway, movies! Finally he would become someone!  
Auditions are tomorrow. No more being chosen last  
Baseball and being average will soon be in the past

Michael did his best for his big chance of stardom  
but auditions ended differently than when they had started  
Of all the parts to play, that he thought he thought he was able  
Of all the parts to play, he was cast as the lamb in the stable

“This was terrible!” said Michael, “What a stupid part to play!”  
Grandpa was near and but he let Michael have his say  
Then Grandpa smiled shouted “Hallelujah! What a perfect part!  
Nothing better than the Lamb when we want to see God’s heart!”

Grandpa believed it but to Michael it didn’t really matter  
if he was laughed at, it would only make him feel sadder  
His Christmas list was long, and now he’s really in a jamb  
He’s afraid he has no choice other than to play the lamb

Mom shopped frantically and kept that pace for weeks  
the crowds and the homeless all swarmed the streets  
Mom didn’t like that Grandpa was always cooking soup  
she felt that during this season, he wasn’t part of the group

all winter he would make soup and take it downtown  
to that crummy building that was really run down  
twice a week he’d take his pots and feed the poor  
He said it wasn’t much, wished he could do more

Michael’s costume was woolly and his ears kept flopping  
Mom dropped him off on her way to go shopping  
Dad decorated the house with a Santa and a candy cane  
And although no one is ready, Christmas Eve finally came

Michael was hungry as they waited for the program to start  
He saw a sign that said “Guests Only” that was on a food cart  
He thought, “This is my church. I’m entitled to have some food”  
He looked both ways, then snatched a sandwich or two

Grandpa brought his sign that read “No room at the Inn”  
then he stood by the door to greet those that came in  
Men wore suits and ties and the wives were very well dressed  
That walked and talked about how “well” they had been ‘blessed’

Then came three old men came that clearly didn’t belong  
they were dirty and smelly with clothes too short or too long  
They hugged Grandpa and said “Thanks for the invite, Mike”  
They were shy until Grandpa said, “Sit with me. It’s alright”

the stores now closed, the season had reached its peak  
The play began, and all sat still for the 1st time in weeks  
The Glory of Heaven Who came to this world as a stranger  
Shepherds worshipped the King who was born in a manger

“Behold the Lamb who takes away the sins of the world”  
Michael looks at his outfit and his mind begins to whirl  
That’s what Grandpa said, that’s what he was talking about  
Is that why Grandpas “Hallelujah” came out with a shout?

The Story ended and everyone clapped and cheered  
but there seemed to be another story being told here  
one of sacrifice to others like God did that day  
Michael felt closer to Grandpa in a different way

He saw Grandpa give money to each of the three men  
It was a lot, a couple of fives and a couple of tens  
He said to Michael, “It won’t last them long,  
just a little something to help ‘em get along”

At home the gifts were open and trash covered the room  
Michael got a flying toy that flew all around the room  
Grandpa asked Michael for a ladle and his parents too  
When he opened his gifts he got not one ladle but two

Michael was happy to get all the toys that were on his list  
He got games and toys and a radio that straps to his wrist  
he played with his toys on and off throughout the day  
Mom smiled at Dad, proud of purchases they had made

Bedtime came and Grandpa called everyone near  
He asked, “How did you like the gifts this year?”  
Michael said, “I like the flying toy and the rest were just fine  
His sentence taper off as if something crossed his mind

Then came the silence, which many do not like  
but Grandpa’s eyes cut right through it like a knife  
His eyes were saying, ‘Go ahead with what you want to say’  
“Could I go with you to the Soup Kitchen some day?”

Mom’s eyebrows raised and looked a little confused  
Then her look took a “what a good idea” sort of view  
Grandpa smiled inside and casually said, “That’ll do”  
Dad felt convicted and asked, “Can, we come too?”

Now the family has a different view of the Christmas Story  
It’s now Baby Jesus, the Precious Lamb, the King of Glory  
God’s plan for us actually started with Jesus in a cradle  
It’s serving God and others even if you only have a ladle