

Tuesday digest

December 6, 2011

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New today from the *Century*:

- Rodney Clapp on [varieties of patriotism](#): "We owe our homeland patriotism, but not just any kind of patriotism—because just as we don't choose our parents, neither do we choose our country of origin." (subscription required)
- Debra Dean Murphy on [Christmas usurping Advent](#): "We give it a wink and a nod, observing a kind of pseudo-Advent, even as our Christmas celebrations — ecclesial, civic, and familial—are in full-swing. I have complained about this so many times for so many years that I'm sick of myself on this one."
- Henry J. Langknecht's [lectionary column](#) for Sunday, December 18: "Mary sings, "My soul magnifies the Lord!" And it does. But God is magnified by more than just her soul. Her life magnifies the Lord through its witness." (subscription required)

In the news:

- [Supreme Court upholds NYC ban on churches in schools](#)
- [Faux tell-all by God himself raises eyebrows](#)
- [Williams says Jesus would be siding with Occupy movement](#)
- [Israel inaugurates 'Gospel Trail' to follow Jesus' steps](#)
- [Cultural and religious beliefs are obstacles to gay rights, says Hillary Clinton](#)

- [Billy Graham released from hospital](#)