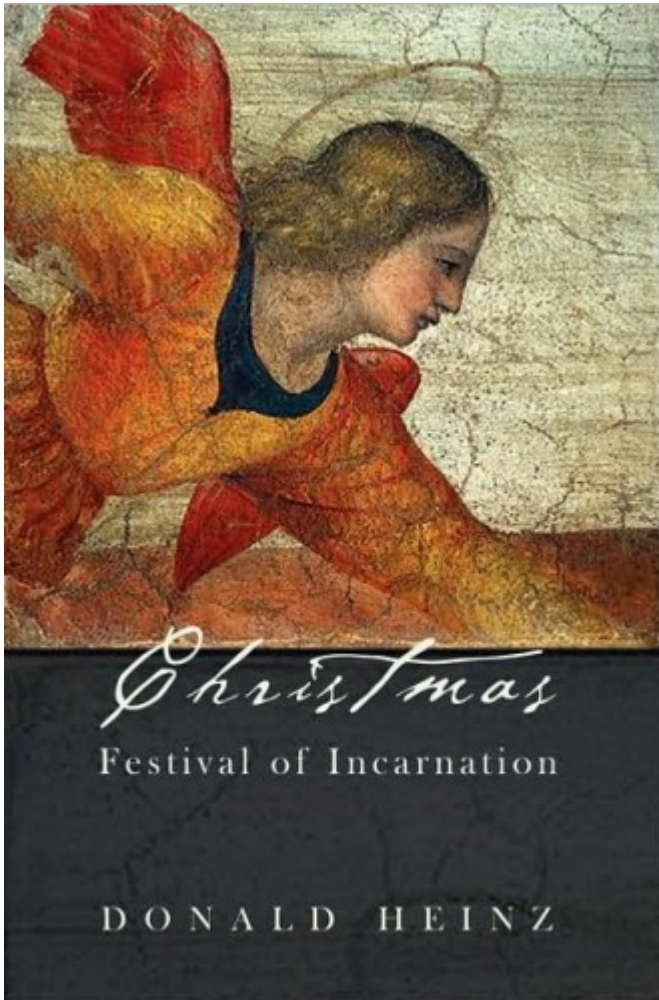


A review of Christmas

Books in the [December 28, 2010](#) issue

In Review



Christmas

By Donald Heinz

Fortress

Heinz, who proclaims that Christmas is his favorite season, looks at the extensive material festival it's become and is more intrigued than bothered. He posits that modern Christmas celebrations are the fullest realization of God's incarnation into

the world. With that in mind, he traces the history of Christmas traditions and celebrations—from its first observance in early Christianity, to its representation in art, literature and popular culture, to the role its religious core plays in contemporary festivities—and sees a long, evolving narrative rather than a sacred institution gone awry.