

Holy Name Cathedral
Advent Reflection



Day #2

Monday, November 30 – Feast of St. Andrew

Romans 10:9-18; Matthew 4:18-22

Today's first reading tells us that those who believe in God, there is salvation. That is great news! However, what about people that do not believe in God? What about people who have yet to encounter Christ or question Christ's teachings because of social injustices or personal experiences? Will they receive the promise of Heaven?

I talked with my friend, Stephanie, about these questions. I grappled with them because I know people baptized as infants, but never went to church because their parents are not practicing Catholics. What happens to these kids? How can they develop an understanding and faith in Jesus Christ? How will they learn the sacred mysteries and get through life's tough times without a faith life? I do not have all the answers to these questions, but several things Stephanie said still resonate with me. She said that you could share your faith with others. Talk about what you believe in and why you believe it. Share Christ's teachings without being preachy or judgmental. Treat others, as you would want to be treated. Love your neighbor as yourself. Live these principles. Live a life of faith. You are not going to be perfect. Count on being imperfect. By living your faith every day, it may inspire other to do the same. It may inspire people who have never been to Mass or Catholics, who has shelved their faith, think about God in a new way and bring them back to Him.

The Gospel reading presents four future disciples dropping everything in their lives and following Jesus. When I read this, I find inspiration in their faith and wonder what happens next. After they followed Jesus for few days, did they have feelings of doubt and uncertainty? Did they miss their families? Did they ever think about returning to their old lives? I imagine that these questions must have run through their minds. We all have doubts and these disciples were likely no different. Their devotion to Jesus and willingness to turn their lives over to him provides hope to those of us who struggle with our faith.

Reflection by Holy Name Cathedral Parishioner Kathleen Wheeler