



Advent Reflection

Day #20

Friday, December 18

Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25

Divine inspiration or a dream?

Those memories recalled... Is it a message from the angel of God or an inspired dream? Is it a voice that we hear when we listen to our heart that guides our every step? These are the questions we ask as we find ourselves at the other end of a difficult time and wonder, how did I ever get through it?

Most recently, I've experienced a very painful time that required a daily walk of faith. The experience was one of true turmoil, filled with relentless pressure and unnecessary anxiety. The cloud of uncertainty obliterated my path and the ground was shaky. I traveled with caution and prayed for grace. In the quiet moments of the day and in those times of sharing, I heard myself say countless times, this is a true walk of faith not knowing how it will end or why it was happening. Options were limited and no doors were opening. The daily struggle became a constant prayer or plea for God's guidance.

It is in hind sight that I know how I was protected and guided through my journey. I could have never predicted the outcome that unfolded. I am still reveling in the joy of the day. It always stuns me when I realize the love bestowed and that I'm not alone. We recall the feelings of joy and expectation every year in Advent waiting for the second coming and rejoicing in the birth of Christ. It is what we carry in our hearts knowing that "God is among us."

Reflection by Holy Name Cathedral Parishioner Julie Yacopino