



# Advent Reflection

**Day #22**

**Sunday, December 20**

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12,14a,16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.” So the prologue to the Gospel of John tells us (Jn. 1:14, RSV-2CE). Today’s reading from the Gospel of Luke reveals to us what this moment looked like, when the author of the universe – he who ignited the Big Bang – entered into his creation not with a bang but in the silence of the womb, taking on the fullness of our humanity at its most vulnerable. The Nativity that we will celebrate on Friday was the necessary consequence of this high point of salvation history, but the reality of the Incarnation is too sublime to capture on a Christmas card.

As it was for Mary and King David, the intrusion of the will of God into our lives is usually messy and at least somewhat terrifying – “full of grace and truth” in a deep and powerful way.

I entered the Catholic Church on the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene this year, after decades in other Christian communities, and my journey included some of these moments precisely. Kneeling in my former church, I suddenly realize I was not where the Lord wanted me to be. Reading the Catechism a year later, I found myself amazed at how it breaks open the Word. Finding relief of sanctifying grace after my first Confession – all of these moments subverted my expectations, but God’s plans bring us to greater grace in spite of our own idea of how the story is supposed to go.

How is God working through you in ways that you did not expect?

*Reflection by Holy Name Cathedral Parishioner Jeffrey Lipschultz*