



Advent Reflection

Day #7

Saturday, December 5

Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Matthew 9:35, 10:1, 5A, 6-8

Do you have an Advent calendar? When my sister and I were kids, it seemed no sooner than the Thanksgiving leftovers were put away then our mom would go downstairs and bring up the Advent wreath and the Advent calendars. There was usually a new one for each of us from the annual church Bazaar in the Fall, but the one that we loved getting out year after year had been sent to us from Germany. It was like looking at the inside of a Gothic Cathedral. Hidden in the panels of the stained-glass windows were the dates, and inside each window was a Bible verse. Christmas Eve's window was the biggest and the best and held the entire Holy Family inside! My sister Cindy and I invariably opened all the windows on the first Sunday of Advent and then would have to carefully push them all back into place so we could then open one daily like you were supposed to do.

Chip and I continued the Advent Calendar tradition with our own three boys. One year, my mom gave each brother one that had a little piece of candy behind every date. The entire season of Advent was finished in the time it took me to set the supper table that night.

How often I find myself still the little girl or see those little boys who were all in such a hurry to get to Christmas! Maybe it's my age or these times but as I've been reflecting on today's Scripture this week I see Jesus is directly asking me—and asking you—to prepare for His return!! In addition, what's more, He is asking us to prepare and minister to others in the same way.

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Thankfully, Jesus does not expect you or me to do this all by ourselves! He will provide in abundance the grace that we need to minister to those who hunger and thirst for lack of knowledge. All we have to do is pray and ask for His help. He will freely give us all that is required.

What are some ways we could share His compassion with those that we see who feel helpless and beaten down during these times of COVID and isolation? Sharing the Good News of the Savior may be the best thing we can do this Advent season. Letting others know about the special Holiday events at Holy Name Parish being livestreamed on YouTube is another and easy to do. Maybe soup left at a front door, simply a call, or a text to say hi, I just wanted to check in.

Jesus has offered us a job this Advent. Let us sure to take it!

Heavenly Father, I thank you for being the Good Shepherd who feels such compassion and love for all of your sheep. Help us in this season of expectation to share the bountiful harvest of love you have given us and tend to others who may be lost and afraid. In Jesus' name, we pray and praise!

Amen.

Reflection by Holy Name Cathedral Parishioner Sherry Travis