

Third Saturday of Advent, December 18 Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18- 25

I thought that I would be able to pick any advent-themed excerpt from the Bible. When going through all the stories I heard in the 20 something Advent seasons I had celebrated, this was the one that I immediately gravitated towards and started to reflect a little in my head. As it would happen, it coincides with the day I was assigned. Funny how things just fall into place...

Growing up as an adoptee, I was very familiar with the concept of raising another person's child as Joseph did with Jesus. At the beginning of the pandemic when everyone started to resort to the internet for human interaction, I came across a Facebook group for Asian adoptees like myself. In our little group, we shared stories and talked about our struggles. One thing that this group has opened my eyes to was the challenges of raising an adopted child. I look back to my own childhood and wonder how my parents managed to deal with issues like race, questions I had about my biological family, and so much more. On top of those issues, they were also from a different time. It took me a while to appreciate how much they had to learn and adapt to the world that I was growing up. With 48 years between my father and I, he had a considerable learning curve to deal with, but he did it. As I get older and am nearing the age when I may soon have children of my own, I reflect a lot on what my parents did for me. What do I want to do for my own children? What don't I want to do?

This being the festive season, I of course want to carry on our traditions that we have cultivated for many years like putting up our tree on Black Friday and baking an unholy amount of desserts for a family with such a high occurrence of diabetes. Until last year, I don't remember a single Christmas I didn't spend with my dad's side of the family. Even with everyone being married or almost married, we all manage to pop in and get Uncle Rick's famous cosmopolitans. I'm so grateful that this year I will be able to see everyone in person. What family traditions are you looking forward to celebrating?

Reflection by Holy Name Cathedral Parishioner Jenna S.