



Our Advent Journey

Let us imagine for a moment what it would be like living during the very first season of Advent, over two thousand years ago. Indeed, it would be very different from the Advents of modern times. There were no shopping malls, parking jams, lines at the post office, internet and many other contemporary signs of living in a fast paced society during the month of December. It was a time of quiet expectation and patient waiting. There was one voice crying out, though. This voice was loud and clear. It was the voice of John the Baptist. His mission was foretold in the Book of Isaiah centuries earlier. "A heralds' voice in the desert, crying, 'Make ready the way of the Lord, clear Him a straight path. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be leveled. The windings shall be made straight and the rough ways smooth, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.'"

How exciting this must have been! People were waiting for the Messiah and now they were hearing that the time for His arrival was close at hand. This will not be something to be afraid of, but something to rejoice in. Good and wonderful things will happen with the arrival of God's Son, yet people will need to be prepared and properly disposed before the arrival. There would be much to be done, but anticipating the arrival of Jesus would be worth it.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could live our Advent of 2017 the same way the people in John the Baptist's day lived? There would probably be less stress in our lives, and certainly we would be more focused on what the real meaning of Christmas is all about. Perhaps during these busy days of Advent we could find some quiet moments to reflect on John the Baptist's message. Let us prepare our hearts and minds to welcome Jesus every day of our lives, not just at Christmas. Let us anticipate with joy what it is like in the Kingdom of God, begun here on earth, and moving toward fulfillment someday when our Lord comes again. Wonderful things have happened, continue to happen and will happen...to all those who believe in the Lord Jesus and welcome Him with open hearts.

Father David

Reconciliation

Advent is the perfect time to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation. We want to make sure our souls are a most welcoming place for Jesus to dwell as we celebrate His birth. Reconciliation cleanses us of sin and makes the dwelling place ready and fitting for Jesus our Messiah. The sacrament is celebrated on Saturdays from 2:30 until 3:30. On Monday, December 11, at 7:00 P.M., we will be having our parish reconciliation service. A short prayer service will be followed by individual confessions with several priests present. The last opportunity to receive the sacrament here before Christmas is on Saturday, December 16. Two priests will be available from 2:30 until 3:30. Please note: No confessions will be heard on Saturday, December 23.