



## The Last Days of Advent

Most of us have these days of December filled with all kinds of activity and maybe some of us are already worn out. I have even heard a few people say over the years, “I can’t wait until Christmas is over, and we can get back to normal.” In a way, that is a sad commentary on how secular celebrations of Christmas (including the shopping, card writing, etc.) can really zap our energy and make us feel empty and frustrated. The last days of Advent may be busier than ever for many of us, therefore making it more difficult to carry out final preparations for our spiritual side to welcome Jesus into our world and lives.

As my own life has become busier over the years with more responsibilities, I have found one consoling thought to be of great help. If everything is not done by Christmas Day, I do not get too upset. Our society may say that Christmas is pretty much over by December 26. Our Church, however, says that our Christmas celebration ends on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which is on Monday, January 8 (2018.) It is still acceptable to send or receive a Christmas greeting anytime in that period. In fact, many people appreciate some Christmas celebration after the day itself, since they have a little more time to appreciate all that this season is about. It is still acceptable to give a gift to someone we care about, even if it is after Christmas Day. The spirit of Christmas knows no time limitations. The spirit that brings us to loving others is one that is to last every day of the year.

When December 26th finally arrives, let us remember that we are still celebrating the birth of the One who came as one of us and continues to make His presence known to us: Jesus Christ.

On behalf of the parish staff, I would like to wish each and every one of you a very Blessed and Merry Christmas! May this time of year be for all of you, a time of peace, grace and joy. The Christ Child came into the world once and will come again as King and Savior. Let us rejoice in knowing that Jesus continues to be with His people...always loving, forgiving and caring about each and every one of us!

*Father David*