

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent Year A

Are you the one who is to come or are we to wait for another? This is a good question that the disciples of John ask. Is Jesus really God? Does He really save us? How Jesus answers is very interesting. He does not say yes, He shows them yes. The blind get their sight, the lame walk and blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me. This is the question of questions. If God is God then how are we to respond to Him? What is the reasonable response? The reasonable response is worship and a desire to perfect our worship to make it purer and of more holy desire. To learn to love God and know Him. If God is God then the next step is worship. In the movie about Duns Scotus, which you can watch on Formed, one young man was asked why he wanted to become a religious brother. He said, "One day I saw a beautiful sight of sheep grazing on the mountain and I wanted to spend the rest of my life thanking God for that sight." Often our worship of God has grown dull and uneventful. Because we have let our love grow cold and that is why we have Advent to rekindle this awe of God and love of the God, to meditate once again on God's great works.

So on this Sunday of Joy what is necessary? It seems that we have to prepare because our lives get so busy and cluttered. It is interesting that Christmas is about preparing for a baby. Can you imagine what you would be doing if a baby was going to come into your life? This seems like a good way to get ready for Christmas.

We may find it hard to put this analogy over to Christmas but the truth of the matter is quite clear. Our getting ready to receive this mystery is essential to our lives. Think of all the work we do to get ready for Christmas. And for what? So our family will be happy and peaceful. That is good, I guess, but don't you think that if we are not as diligent in getting our souls ready that we will miss the real joy of Christmas? I think that we should have real expectations of what we want to Jesus to do in our lives this year and place the petitions before God. Part of the greatest aspect of joy is the anticipation of things to come. I feel Christmas will be a let-down for us if we do not expect Jesus to work. What was the expectant joy of the coming Messiah? It was that the blind would see, the lame leap for joy, the enslaved go free. Christmas is about meeting this Messiah who has plans and power for our lives. I know – amazing! We need to think of the ways we are bound up, the ways we are blind and lame and be prepared to give them to Jesus this Christmas. One way, of course, is to go to Confession and clear the way for Him. We must increase our joy in meeting Jesus the Messiah this Christmas if we want it to really live up to our expectations, our anticipations.

We do not have to lower our expectations thinking that our joy will not be increased if we but get ready to meet the Messiah. The Gospel tells us of many people coming to Jesus with problems. They announced them and got healed. There were also many people who had problems that didn't announce them and do you know what? They did not get healed. I invite you to make a list, check it twice, of the things that you want Jesus to do for you. Please, please put on your list increase my faith, hope and love. Then hold on to this list and pray for these things and see what miracles our Lord does for you at Christmas and through the year. See where you are next Christmas.