

# SAID ED December 9, 2012

## Advent and Reconciliation

Here we are at the Second Week of Advent! How are your preparations coming? I am trying to make some special time to just 'be' in the presence of the Lord. (Location is secondary to intention here. If coming to church helps, come. If going into a room and closing the door helps, go. If closing your eyes for a few moments to be still works for you, do it.) It is the intention that counts. There is an old adage that is the accumulation of much wisdom in our spiritual tradition: *You get out of things what you put into them.* Advent is a time for *putting ourselves into the season.* It's a time for us to step back from the busyness and make room in our hearts for the great mystery that we celebrate at Christmas. Please try it -- you'll like it!

Last week I wrote about Advent being a gift from God to us. It's a time to open our hearts a bit more to what God is doing in our world. God is always 'work' It is we who forget that so often. It is we who create obstacles to experiencing the action of God in our lives. Advent can be a time to raise our awareness to the great mystery of God's life in our world, in your particular.

One of the obstacles that can keep us from experiencing God's presence in our lives is the need to be reconciled to God, to others and even to our deepest selves. The Eucharist is the primary Sacrament of Reconciliation. The journey begins when we are baptized into the Body of Christ and we become members of God's family. We are purged of the Original Sin of the World and welcomed into God's grace. We are baptized once, but the need to be healed, reconciled and fed is continuous. That's why we celebrate the Eucharist every day! Many folks come to Mass every day. The increased number of regular daily Mass attendees during Advent and Lent attests that many people know this in their hearts. They are present at daily Mass praying for all of us!

During Advent we have the special opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We hear Confessions every week on Thursdays after 11:15am Mass and on Saturdays after the 4:00pm Mass. During this Year of Faith we are planning on offering this Sacrament many times in addition. One such time is on Tuesday December 18 at 10:15 until 11:15. Fr Edison and I are always available to celebrate this Sacrament by appointment as well.

The parish Communal Penance Service will be held on Monday, December 17 at 7:00 p.m. We will begin with our usual communal prayer service, followed by individual confessions. Several priests from our neighboring parishes will be available to make this possible. The Celebration of the sacrament will be available in this same form at St. Joseph's Church at noon on December 17<sup>th</sup>. These celebrations, planned by the priests and parishes in our planning group (JJJAR) will emphasize our communal and personal need to reconcile with our neighbor and our God. We invite you to take advantage of these opportunities.

Have a good Advent!

Don't forget our **Christmas Cantata** next Sunday 2:00pm. COME, you won't be disappointed!

To see the video, click on the following web page:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w\\_BR2irEyWo&feature=em-share\\_video\\_user](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w_BR2irEyWo&feature=em-share_video_user)

Or go to the Church of the Assumption page on Facebook.

