

From the Pastor's Office

3rd Sunday of Advent

The first lesson from Isaiah today gives us images from the desert. The desert is a hostile place and it is hard to live in it and it is hard to survive there. We realize that in order to live we must have a constant supply of water or else we die. All that talk about climate change is making us pay attention to the supply of water. I heard recently that South Africa is in trouble. Last year their water supply dried up. This year they are worse off than ever. The climate is changing and we better pay attention. We hear all about the city of Austin protecting the Aquifer. We are vulnerable as well. In the world of gardening, experts tell us in Texas to move away from our lovely green lawns and begin to look like homes in Arizona. We should replace our green lawns with desert foliage, lovely cacti, and pretty boulders. When the rains come there is huge rejoicing. The parched places become fully alive again. Within a couple of days the desert bursts into bloom. The animals come back to the watering hole. Unconsciously we breathe a sigh of relief. We can survive for another while. This climate change business is all getting very serious. Isaiah says it like this: "The desert and the parched land will exult, the steppe will rejoice and bloom. They will bloom with abundant flowers and rejoice with joyful song." The idea is that with the coming of the Messiah, the parched desert of our lives will bloom once again. The tremendous change that comes is articulated in the words of Jesus as well. "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them." That is all good news. Lots of us don't know it and lots of us don't see it either. We go about in our daze every day blending into another. Proof of that is that this time every year you say, "I can't believe it is Christmas already." You have aged another year. Time passes and you have no idea what is going on. You live in a desert. You don't know that you thirst for water. My gaze is so focused on the things of the earth that I don't actually see what is going on. Lift up your eyes to the Heavens and see the joy that comes to you from God. Rise and show yourself. Show your splendor to the world. For the Lord has comforted His people.



With love,
Fr. Pat