

From the Pastor's Office

4th Sunday of Advent

I try to imagine Jesus in some heavenly place hearing confessions before Christmas. Gazillions of people are waiting for their turn. "Bless me Jesus for I have sinned..." Then we all drone on forever about everything. Same old sins, the good old favorites. I give Jesus my usual complaints about the family. I ask for the same things every time. I suspect Jesus has a lot more patience than me. He is willing to sit there forever and listen to me droning on and on. I even get bored with myself sometimes. Isaiah speaks to us. "Is it not enough for you to weary people, must you also weary my God?" Because we are nice and we might not say it out loud, truth be told, I get very tired of you going on and on about it. Nothing seems to change. This calls for a dramatic intervention. "Therefore the Lord will give you a sign: the virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall name Him Emmanuel." Great change is coming. Already the deserts have burst into flower. The water holes are full again. With the coming of the Messiah we are given a guide to help us navigate our way through this life. When I begin to engage with this Messiah, things begin to change in my own personal life. People were once strangers to me. Now I regard them like they are my brothers and sisters. I feel the need to do works of charity. I begin to pray for other people and not always for myself. I feel concern for the world. I was never like this before. I identify myself as a Christian, a follower of Christ, part of the Christian community. I join myself with a common purpose. I am a pilgrim and I am on the journey to the Promised Land of Heaven. All roads converge on the Heavenly Jerusalem. Once we arrive and we have our rooms, we begin our new life with a Heavenly Banquet. I wonder will there be cheesecake? If there is, I know that it will be Heavenly!



With love,
Fr. Pat