**St. Simon Organizations’ Spiritual Component**

**December, 2018**

The first week of December brings new beginnings. With the coming of Advent, we welcome a new Church year. This year, on December 2, we say, “Happy New Year” in the Church. Advent is a season of preparation. As our store fronts and houses are being prepared with lights, bows, and trimmings to prepare for Christmas on the outside, as Catholics we prepare for Jesus on the inside – in our hearts.

*A voice proclaims in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! (Is 40:3)*

Jesus, who chose to become human 2,000 years ago, who comes to us in the Holy Eucharist, and who will come again at the end of time, is known by many names. These names were proclaimed by prophets before he was even born. Others were added by Him during his time on Earth:

*Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him* ***Immanuel*** *(Is 7:14)*

*She will give birth to a son and you are to give him the name* ***Jesus*** *because he will save his people from their sins. (Mt 1:21)*

*Today in the town of David a* ***Savior*** *has been born to you; he is the* ***Messiah****, the* ***Lord****. (Luke 2:11)*

*Where is the one who has been born* ***King of the Jews****? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. (Mt 2:2)*

*I am the* ***Bread of Life****. (John 6:48)*

We, too, are known by many names: our name given at birth, but also perhaps mother, father (or Father), brother, sister, coach, boss, leader, child, daughter, son, caregiver, employee, student, child of God, and more. As was true of Jesus, God knew each of us before we were born. God called each of us by name. He had a purpose for each of us and will be with us until the end of time. Our names reflect the many ways that we are held by God during life’s journey. As we experience the many roles we play and names we wear during this Advent season, help us to remember to *Behold* the King of Glory, the Good Shepherd who gathers us in His strong arms, and remember to allow ourselves *to be held* by Him.

Let us pray or sing together:

*Come, Lord Jesus. Come Lord Jesus. Come Lord Jesus. Come and be born in our hearts.*

*Come, O Prince of Peace. Come O Prince of Peace. Come O Prince of Peace. Come and be born in our hearts.*

*Come Immanuel. Come Immanuel. Come Immanuel. Come and be born in our hearts.* (Carey Landry)

1. Which name of Jesus speaks most to you? How does that connect to your hopes for you and/or your family this Advent and Christmas?
2. Which of your names/roles is especially challenging? How can Our Savior walk with you in that role this Advent season and beyond?