

12/15/19

Look around you and see some goodness.

Welcome dear people of God to the third Sunday of Advent also known as Gaudete or rejoice Sunday. The opening verse of the entrance antiphon for today calls us to rejoice because the Lord is near. The night is far spent the day is at hand. The Lord promises to do a new thing in our lives by renewing his grace and mercy in our lives through the one whose birth we await this Christmas. It is this understanding which provides the context to the words of scripture from the Prophet Isaiah who is sent by God to proclaim to the Israelites in exile (described as parched land or steppe) to rejoice, because the Lord will make a new life spring up and blossom. They will see the glory of the Lord; his power and vindication. If you just put your name, there in that passage you would just have a wonderful message. This word is for you and me. He is a faithful God and his promises of salvation is so true and certain.

When John the Baptist sent his disciples to ask Jesus if he is the one who is to come the answer, they got is amazing. Jesus told them to just look around; look at all of God's deeds among humanity. The poor in spirit have God's word proclaimed to them, the deaf hear, the blind sees, the dead are raised, and sinners can find forgiveness again. When we look around what do we see? Do you see enough to lead you to believe that God is indeed with us? What do you see? I see farmers in the area done with harvest, relying on God's rain and sunshine, I see babies born a short while ago beginning to walk, I see families that are still attending Sunday Masses and living their Catholic faith with joy, I see a lot of goodness and kindness around, at the hospital, at the mall. Indeed, there is everything to prove that God is among us.

In view of this, the Letter of St. James reminds us to be patient and avoid complaining and whining and murmurings. Sometimes there is a lot of murmuring that goes on everywhere. Can we make a conscious effort to stop complaining and to look around and see some goodness? We are called to be joyful Christians. We are encouraged to encourage one another, to strengthen the hands that are feeble and to make firm knees that are weak. We are told to be strong and unafraid because our Savior will come to save us.

Praise be Jesus Christ...Now and Forever!