

Jan L. Richardson, writes about Advent, which we are about to begin. "The season of Advent means there is something on the horizon the likes of which we have never seen before ... *What is possible is to not see it, to miss it, to turn just as it brushes past you. And you begin to grasp what it was you missed, like Moses in the cleft of the rock, watching Gods [back] fade in the distance.* So... Stay. Sit. Linger. Tarry. Ponder. Wait. Behold. Wonder. There will be time enough for running. For rushing. For worrying. For pushing. For now, stay. Wait. Something is on the horizon".

Joyful expectation, these are the two words that the Church uses to describe this special season. And we all know that it's hard to be joyful in our world today. It's also equally frustrating to be told to wait for something when we need it now. Yet we know "something is on the horizon". Advent reminds us to get ready, not just for Christmas Day but also for the coming of the Kingdom of God in our midst. Here in the parish, at each of our sites we have several different opportunities to help make the world a better place for Jesus when He comes again. These giving projects also help us to share the joy of the season with those who are in need. This year our Advent giving will be organized around three familiar projects. The "Giving Tree," the "Toy Drive" and the "Food Pantry".

**At 92nd Street** our giving efforts will benefit the Food Pantry at that site. Any time before Christmas, you may bring non-perishable food items to the Church. The maroon baskets will be available in the Baptismal area behind the pulpit. There will also be envelopes there if you wish to make a monetary donation to turn in at offertory time during the December masses.

**At 106th Street** our giving efforts will benefit the Capuchin Community Services. The "Twelve Days of Christmas Toy Drive" begins December 1 and goes through **December 12**. It seems a short time -- only 12 days, but the Capuchins need to make sure they have the gifts reach the children in time for Christmas.

**At 116th Street** the Giving Tree will be set up in the Gathering space the weekend before Thanksgiving. You may choose a tag (or tags) from the tree and bring the items with you to Church. Please attach the tag to the gift so that we know what the package contains. ALL giving tree items must be in Church by **DECEMBER 12th** for them to be distributed in time for Christmas. These projects, though they might seem small to some, make a real difference in the lives of the people they will touch.

At the bottom of this sheet you will find a box asking you to indicate if you would be willing to help us with a **one-time** donation to cover the shortfall, should it be decided that we cannot continue the parish festival.

Something indeed is on the horizon for us all. The gift of God in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago is renewed whenever and however we open our hearts to Christ. May the Blessing of this Holy Season and the Joy of Christmas be with you and with all your families.

Fr. Jeff and Fr. Thomas

Yes, I will make a one-time donation this year in lieu of holding a parish festival