

Father Jim's Weekly Bulletin Article for December 17 2017

Advent and Christmas: On Monday, November 18 we will have our Advent reconciliation service. It will be at Queen of Peace, beginning at 7 pm. Next Sunday is both the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve. Advent is short this year. Try your best to stay in the season until the end of Sunday Mass. Christmas Eve is usually crowded. Seating will be tight, especially at the early Masses. Be as welcoming as you can be. We are both receiving and presenting Christ.

Readings for next week: 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

Reflection: No one would question that God was with David. He had defeated Goliath, won the loyalty of Israel and conquered the fortress city of Jerusalem. In all he gave credit to God. Now he wishes to build a temple, a monument to God's glory. Although a pious thought, God rejects it. He does not reject David. There is nothing wrong with David's intentions. God rejects only the idea that his glory could be better seen in a temple than in the heart of David himself. The clearest sign of God's presence is not in stone structures but in the hearts and actions of his people. Mary is the temple that David could never build. In her, and through her, God's glory is made evident. We are her children, temples that cannot be built, but which nevertheless can house the one who saves us. In Christ is our glory, and in us his glory lives.

1. Reflect upon the gifts of your parents. In what ways does their glory live in you?

2. Notice how you hold a crucifix. What makes this object precious?

Prayer: Father, we sing your praises. Your glory far exceeds our imagination, and yet you have chosen us to be the living signs of your presence. Bless us as you once blessed the virgin Mary, to be the bearers and fulfillment of your Word.