

## **Father Jim's Weekly Bulletin Article for November 26 2017**

**Taps:** We come to the end of another Church Year. I am reminded of my days in Boy Scouts, singing Taps at the end of the Day. We gave thanks for the day, and with the concluding words, "God is nigh" we recognized his continued presence. It strikes me that this is a good way to close the work of any day, but perhaps especially as we think back on the blessings and trials of the year, and perhaps even more so as we think about the Coming of Christ at the end of time. We give thanks for many, many blessings. We review our failures and our successes. We think about those who have shared their lives with us, especially those who have now gone on ahead of us into eternal life. All of these things, all of these experiences, all of our loved ones, share in the day and the year and the life we live. At the end of the day, at the end of the year, at the end of time, is Christ. At the completion of every blessing, every experience, every life, is Christ. God is Nigh.

**Readings for next week:** Isaiah 63:16-17, 19, 64:2-7; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 12:33-37

**Reflection:** We begin a new year looking forward, not to a relationship with a new god but to a renewed relationship with the same God we've known all our lives. In some ways we treat God like an old shoe. He becomes comfortable, and unfortunately unnoticed as time goes by. Advent is a time for remembering where God has been, and for anticipating where God will be. We thank God for the gifts and ways through which he has made his presence known. We pray that we may be more open to recognizing God's presence in the coming year. We know that God has been with us, often blessing in ways we did not expect. We know that he is with us now. We know that he will be with us in the months and years to come. We do not know how or when he will make his presence known. We keep our eyes open waiting patiently for the surprises that God has planned for us.

1. Share with family or friends any signs that you have seen today which suggests Christ's coming.
2. Create an Advent Wreath. Each evening gather around the wreath. Mention each family member by name, calling for God's blessing upon them.

**Prayer:** Father, grant your blessing upon the new year that you have given us. We seek to renew and strengthen our relationship with you and with your Son, Jesus. Open our eyes and hearts to the wonder of your presence.