



A VIEW FROM THE PEW

Fourth Sunday of Advent

12-20-2020

(Fr. Tom has invited members of our community to share a reflection on Advent as together we await the coming of the baby Jesus.)

Soon, very soon the baby Jesus will be born and the world will rejoice joined together in our faith that this child is the long awaited promised Son of God come to save us.

By now most of us have decorated our homes, modified our Christmas shopping patterns, considered how we will limit or virtually celebrate our traditions with our loved ones and perhaps provide more gifts or financial support to favorite organizations who help those less fortunate or finding themselves impacted by a devastating pandemic.

We can certainly agree this year presented a test for all of us. In all facets of our lives our faith, hope, resilience, creativity and determination to keep going has been tested. Sadly some withdrew or simply gave up. Others listened to expert advice and were strengthened by their faith while embracing and creatively applying their God-given talents and skills in support of their family friends, colleagues and community in ways no one ever imagined possible.

Fear of the unknown can be paralyzing. We can only imagine the fear the Virgin Mary experienced when learning from the Angel Gabriel that she would bear a son – the Son of God no less.

“Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.” Surprised, terrified, doubtful, fearful all must have gone her mind. Yet assured by the angel ***“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.”*** her extraordinary faith led her to proclaim, ***“Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.”***

With Christmas upon us we are called to welcome the Christ child as the source of our faith, hope and boundless love. As Mary taught us, may we find strength and encouragement to overcome our fears of the unknown. Together in faith may we build a brighter future throughout the Canton Catholic Community and beyond.

Several helpful resources for Advent are waiting for you at www.cantoncatholic.org

Tom Brodnicki
Pastoral Council Member