

Third Sunday in Advent

A Message from Fr. Mark

Dear Parishioners,

Today's second reading from the Letter of James tells us to be patient during this Advent season: "See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm... Do not complain about one another..." (James 5:7-9) This reading is telling us to be patient with God, with other people. I think it also means we should be patient with ourselves. Sometimes our hearts are not firm. We are full of weaknesses and anxieties and fears. We must wait patiently for God to send down the rain of his grace upon our souls so that virtues can grow. But we know exactly to whom we must go to receive those graces. We can go to the Blessed Virgin Mary who is the "Mediatrice of All Graces". Mary is one of the two patron saints of the season of Advent. The other is St. John the Baptist, who also helps us prepare for the coming of the Lord.

Jesus told John the Baptist that he did not have to "wait for another." (Matthew 11:3) We can go to Jesus now! We can adore him in the Eucharist and expect that he will give us all the graces we need. At Christmas, we can go to Jesus and also to Mary. We can be like the three Magi who found Jesus with Mary: "The Magi were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother." (Matthew 2:10-11) She gave us Jesus, and she can give us help to be like Jesus! She gives us peace and joy in the midst of our weaknesses and sins. The graces that we need always pass through her immaculate hands as she offers us her newborn Son!

During these Holy Days may we feel a peaceful patience and a quiet calm as we experience the love of Our Lord and Our Lady!

Sincerely,
Fr. Mark