



From the Desk of Father Peter

Welcome to Advent: A Time That Reveals Our Lord's Humanity

Yesterday is gone, and tomorrow is yet to come. If we choose to spend today reliving the past and being anxious for the future, we may lose our opportunity to serve God. Our faith and joy urge us to live today, to work as faithful disciples of the Lord in this time and place. Distractions can keep us from recognizing the presence of God in our daily lives. Rather, we could be showing Christ's presence through the daily work of our hands. Personally, as your pastor, I am very touched by what we do for our parish as parishioners in all the areas that we are called upon to do so. Today we celebrate the mystery of God's promise of salvation fulfilled in Christ. Christ was a man. Although we may know this, we often forget to consider the reality of it. Christ was a man and He descended from a lineage of fallen, broken humans such as us. We are reminded of this profound reality each Christmas. At Mass on Christmas Eve, we read the genealogy of Jesus from the Gospel of Matthew. With each name and generation, we are reminded of the humanity of our Lord, of His beautiful humility, and our own roles in salvation history. Advent is a time of waiting until the salvation promised will be ours when Christ comes again in glory. After our national elections, Thanksgiving celebrations, and many other personal challenges, good or bad, including loss of family members and relations, we have many things on our minds. As a result, some people look for signs of the end of the world and



attribute apocalyptic meaning to everything they see. For them the message of Sacred Scripture imposes FEAR. On the other hand, many other people are dreamers who are caught up in the world the way they think it should be. They dream but without accepting the reality of today. FOR WITHOUT GOD, WE ARE NOTHING! Dreams of what the world could be should not keep us from the ministry that is necessary today. As Catholics in the Diocese of Rochester today, there is joy to share, work to do, blessings to be received, and pain to alleviate. This Advent season we are called to make a difference to God by calling JESUS, COME HEAL US, and that will make the difference. Today is the day that we must serve God and prepare God's way. We don't know what tomorrow holds for us but we must resist becoming slaves to the past and victims of the future. Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise of salvation. Jesus understands our human weakness and calls us to himself to receive forgiveness, grace, and strength as we await his coming. Advent is a time of preparation; of getting ready for the Messiah and it demands a response from us. Each of us needs to take the time to pay attention to our spiritual life, and today is a good day to start!

Get closer to God by praying, especially as a family. Keep Christ in Christmas; He's the Reason for the Season. Go and make a good Confession in any of our churches.



Jesus, Come Heal Us
Advent Blessings,
Father Peter