



# Advent Reflections for EOHSJ 2nd Sunday of Advent 2023

Reflection by Msgr. Dennis Mikulanis, KCHS

**W**e like to think that a person's word is as good as any contract: a deal proposed, handshake given, commitment made. However, no one today would undertake a business deal simply on a handshake because it simply won't stand up in court. If nothing else, Judge Judy has taught us that! So, in the Scriptures for this weekend we're told a few times: "Hey, listen, let's make a deal. You be my people, I'll be your God, I'll take care of everything and you worry about nothing, and all we have to seal the agreement is my word." "Yeah, right" we might say. "Do you really expect me to fall for that?"

**H**owever, look at the Scriptures themselves, the wonderful promises in Isaiah: "... for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken." Furthermore, the First Letter of Peter tells us that the time will be given for repentance and forgiveness and, despite our problems we will enjoy the rewards of paradise. Even latecomers will be given leeway "... according to His [God's] promise." Then along comes this crazed prophet from the desert proclaiming the coming of Christ, the Savior, and all who accept Him will be saved. In each of these we are inclined to think: "Sounds good, but where's the written contract?" For us the contract is the Scriptures themselves AND the fact that God has never gone back on His word which really should be good enough for even the most skeptical among us.

**T**oday we are as anxious as ever about world us and our place in it. The war between Ukraine and Russia (both "Christian" countries!); the war in Israel (the Holy Land), the dysfunction of government, inflation, drugs, etc. etc. cause so much distress. Satan then comes along and tells us not to worry that we can go it alone, that we ought to rely on ourselves if we want to find any success in life. Wasn't that the lie It told Adam and Eve, and is still telling us? The evil one tells us we don't need God, in fact God doesn't exist so eliminate that superstition from our lives and we'll be much happier. The Scriptures, though, tell us: "Don't listen to that liar. You'll just get into trouble. Only a fool would listen to Its advice. Instead, here is what you have to do."

**A**dvent is a time for us to look at our lives again. Does something in our life need changed? Change it! Am I at odds with someone? Reconcile! Do I want God closer in my life? Invite Him in!

For those who do, God will be there. HE will become all important; HE will make all things new and make life more joyful and worth living.

How do we know that? He's given us His word.

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