



Advent Reflections for EOHSJ 3rd Sunday of Advent 2018

Reflection by Rev. Sir Mark A. Strader, KCHS

In our Gospel today, the crowd asks John the Baptist, “What should we do?” to prepare for the coming of the Lord. We can get so caught up in the “marketed Christmas” that we neglect to take the time to be ready for Christmas. We spend more time shopping and decorating instead of listening and waiting.

As indicated in John’s answer, this “guest” who is coming is on a mission and we might have some personal tidying up to do before His arrival. Now is the time to prepare for the Lord. As we rejoice in the coming of the Lord, let us recall just who IS coming. It’s time to put on our best behavior and enjoy ourselves!

The Knights and Ladies approach humbly the memory of a pilgrimage to the Holy Lands particularly the emotion of taking those deeply personal steps in which Jesus Himself walked. Bishop Marc Trudeau and I led a pilgrim group last April and it was the first time for each of them to enter the journey. Having been on pilgrimage before this last trip, it was truly rewarding to see the emotion on the face of each pilgrim as together we embraced our Catholic Christian faith in a deeper way. For Bishop Marc, he was preparing to be ordained to the episcopacy and to “put out into deep water”. For myself, I was journeying with a longtime friend and classmate who had embraced the cross of cancer and continues to live out the example of rejoicing in the Lord always through his own ministry as a priest and, now, as a bishop.

This Advent the members of our Order are called to rejoice in the Lord always and to announce the Good News through the many programs we sponsor. We do so confident that the “peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”

Faith practice: Rejoice in the Lord Always with an attitude of gratitude!

*THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME,
BECAUSE HE HAS ANOINTED ME
TO BRING GLAD TIDINGS
TO THE POOR*

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