

Homily - Advent 4 - Year C - December 23, 2018

Watching and waiting. Advent is all about watching and waiting. You'd better watch out, you'd better not cry, you'd better not pout I'm telling you why ... you can supply the rest. In Advent, children await, hopefully the celebration of the birth of Christ, but perhaps they, along with a few adults, also await the surprises that can come with Christmas.

"I just can't wait" is a frequently used expression. We often face situations in life where we have to wait. Unfortunately, some of us, like myself, hate to wait. EZ-Pass, online banking, and Dunkin Donuts "on the go" were invented with people like myself in mind.

We think of waiting as passive and we grow antsy for outcomes. So, can't wait for payday? Take out a payday loan. Can't take time to eat a meal? Grab an energy drink, especially one loaded with caffeine. We text our messages so we don't have to talk, we tweet so we don't have to explain too much. Our cars go faster, talk to us, and beep us when we are lost. We shop online to avoid stores or the inconvenience of parking, engaging people or having a conversation with the stranger in line...waiting. In the words of the Geico Gecko....forget about it! Waiting in this culture is a disease.

But Advent and ultimately Christmas are all about waiting. The prophet Micah that we heard in our first reading, as well as many other prophets, had a vision of the Messiah long before Jesus came onto the scene. The letter to the Hebrews explains that Jesus fulfills the prophecies about long-expected Messiah. When we peer into the Christmas Creche, we gaze with love on the Christ-child who fulfills even now all the we could ever hope for. The waiting preached in the Old Testament is fulfilled in the Christ of the New Testament.

Literally, Christmas is just around the corner. Use the remaining hours before Christmas to focus on Christmas, focus on the hope that is fulfilled in Jesus Christ, focus on the material gifts that should reflect your willingness to share with others, focus on the who of Christmas rather than the what of Christmas. Advent is the time for us to dispose ourselves for the coming of Jesus into our lives. Find time during the "busyness" of these days to be attentive to the words: "O come, let us adore him."