

4th WEEK OF ADVENT, December 20, 2015

“Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled”

Ruth Noel, Vincentian Spiritual Moderator

READINGS:

Micah 5:1-4; Psalm 80:2-3,15-16,18-19; Hebrews 10:5-10; Gospel Luke 1:39-45

The readings this week remind us that the time is near for the coming of the Lord. The Old Testament tells us that from Bethlehem shall come forth one who is to be the ruler and shepherd. The Psalmist prays to “turn to you and let us see your face...” St. Paul talks of one who has come “to do your will”. And Luke tells of Mary and Elizabeth greeting each other, expectant and full of hope, and the time so near of the birth of the Savior.

REFLECTION:

“...I am the handmaid of the Lord. Be it done unto me according to your word.” Mary is the example of one who seeks the will of God and chooses to follow it. Mary was told by an angel what God wanted of her. Despite any fear, misgivings or confusion she put her faith in God and accepted the way God was leading her. St. Paul reminds us that Jesus did not come into this world to offer sacrifices and sin offerings, but to do His Father’s will. Through prayer and openness to God’s presence in our lives, we are called to seek God’s will for us. For Mary, an angel shared God’s message with her. God speaks to us in many ways. And we must allow ourselves to listen. Sometimes we hear God in our heart; sometimes that message comes through people who love us and know us well; sometimes the message comes from circumstances or people that surround our daily lives; sometimes it comes from strangers and difficult situations.

PRAYER:

“Be still and know that I am God.” In our busy lives, we need to find the time to quiet ourselves. Sitting with the Lord and listening. Try reading the continuation of Luke’s Gospel and the beautiful Canticle of Mary. Pause after verses and think of how it applies to your life. Spend a few minutes thinking of Mary and the angel appearing to her. Put yourself in the picture. What would you be thinking? What was Mary thinking? What was she feeling? Think of a time when you were confronted with a difficult or unusual situation. How did you feel? Picture Mary and Elizabeth greeting each other. Feel their joy and love for each other.

TRY THIS TODAY:

Ask yourself this question: “In the decisions I made in the last 24 hours did I think about what God’s will was for me?”