

Fr. Glenn's Pen

We hear on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent from the prophet Micah, the prophecy that the savior would be born from its confines. He rules and is peace! Is not peace what we all long for? Why is it seemingly so hard for us to trust in the Lord. When we know Christ we truly have a peace in our heart and good will towards all, even our enemies! This is miraculous.

Can we truly pray with the Psalmist, "LORD God of hosts, restore us; light up your face and we shall be saved." Do we realize how much restoration or mercy we need? As the author of Hebrews relates, " .. I come to do your will!" Do we really want to do the will of God? Hopefully parents encourage their children to know the will of God in their lives and strive to do it. God's will leads not only to personal happiness, but eternal satisfaction. It is not some external sacrifice of animal blood that will save us, no, it is Jesus's one sacrifice that is sufficient to save all who put their trust in Him. God invites us all! My prayer is that we can all respond to His invitation as Mary did, "Let it be done unto me according to your will.

Mary set out to serve her cousin Elizabeth, and Mary was blessed for her commitment. Christmas is much more than presents and commerce, it is about a Person. Let us truly come to more deeply understand that we are all members of Body of Christ. Be mindful of the reality of seeing the Christ in every person to whom you give a gift Be mindful too of the fact that when we receive a gift it is Christ who receives it in His Mystical Body.

In these last few days before December 25, make sure you strive to carry the Spirit of Christmas forward to the secular new year. Christmas season continues until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord which is January 10<sup>th</sup>, try and leave your decorations up at least until the Epiphany, which we celebrate in the United States on January 3<sup>rd</sup> this year. December 25 is the day we recall the birth of Christ, but may the recognition of the gift of Christ Himself be with you every day of your life!