



3rd SUNDAY of ADVENT
YEAR A – December 15, 2019

The ancient Romans had a god called Janus. We get our word January from him.

He is depicted in art as having a head with two faces. One face looks backward; the other looks forward.

The season of Advent is like that in a sense. It looks backward to the first coming of Jesus. It also looks forward to the second coming of Jesus, at death or at the end of time.

You and I stand at the midpoint if you will, between these two great historical moments. Our job is not to sit on a hilltop passively, looking backward to the one and forward to the other.

Our job is to complete the work that Jesus gave us to do at his first coming. In the practical order of things, what does that mean?

- It means building up the kingdom of God in the part of the world in which we live.
- It means filling our world with love rather than hate.
- It means filling our world with forgiveness rather than resentment
- It means filling our world with truth rather than falsehood.
- It means filling our world with compassion rather than cold indifference.

If we lived our Lord's way, the prophecies of Isaiah in our first reading today (Isaiah 35:1-6a), would be fulfilled in our time. They are not.

The way we act toward each other would be in accord with the advice we get from St. James in the second reading today (James 5:7-10). It's worth reading again when you get home.

And we would know what Jesus means when he says that the least of us in his kingdom, is greater than John the Baptist (Matthew 11:2-11)

John the Baptist had the spirit of Elijah, we have the spirit of Jesus. Elijah came back in the person of John. Jesus comes back in the person of each one of us, if we allow him to do that. In a sense, he can be born again and again.

For a few moments in silence, reflect on how the Spirit of Jesus is alive in you.

