

Advent Reflection from Fr. Tusky . . .

Thanksgiving is behind us. Christmas is before us. Advent is upon us. Today, November 30, is the First Sunday of our Liturgical Year. It's hard to believe that Christmas is only three Sundays & four days away. There seems to be a 'world of things' to do before then. It feels so overwhelming. Yet, whether we are ready or not, like it or not, Christmas, with all its glorious wonders and all its inevitable tragedies, will come and Christmas will go. Whether we 'go with the flow' and enjoy it (for the most part!) or whether we are 'bowled over' and crushed by it (for the most part!) —it is up to us. You see, it all has to do with 'attitude.'

If we allow ourselves to get caught up in a spending frenzy, worrying about what others will think, then all the glitter & sparkle will weigh us down and, come December 26, when it's all over, we will not only be exhausted, but disgusted. If, on the other hand, we attempt to keep this Christmas (and its Advent Season) as a spiritual journey, then, come December 26, we will not only be exhausted, but delighted. I don't mean that we will be jumping with joy, praising God from the rooftops. But, when it is all over, we will feel closer to God...for having privately reminded ourselves--all along--that it had been about Him... NOT about us or the house or anything else.

Christmas is not only for children, making the time special for them. It is also about Him—and our gratitude for His deep love for us, dramatized in our Nativity scenes. You know the ones--in our churches and in our homes. With the right attitude, it's about our remembering, in spite of all the noise, all the traffic, and all the shouting-- that this season is about the love of God for every one of us. The liturgical year begins with our preparing (waiting for) His arrival. The year ended (last week) with our acknowledging Him as THE King...of time & space. In between the two... is our time ...to live and share His truth.

We rightly celebrate Christmas, for without it, there would be no Easter...no hope.

But, fortunately, we do have Christmas. So live it, especially in these coming three weeks!

Sincerely and in Him, born in a manger, --Fr. T.

