



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! As we begin this fourth week of Advent, we encounter a beautiful Fullness which does the heart good: A Fullness unique to the Season, unique to the Christian Life. Let's take a look:

First, we encounter a **Fullness of Days**. This year with Christmas on a Saturday, this fourth week affords us a full fourth week of Advent. The number of Advent days this year is nearing its capacity! Let's savor these Fullness of days that make up this fourth week.

Second, we encounter a **Fullness of Life**. The Gospel on this Fourth Sunday manifests this with great clarity as we meet both Elizabeth and Mary: their wombs Full with child. This is different from the stuffed-ness or bloated-ness that we knew a few weeks ago on Thanksgiving! It's different from the crowdedness that we find in our homes this week. It's different from anything we could produce. The image of Elizabeth and Mary with child is God's pure gift and a tangible sign of God's Goodness. This week, pray with these two beautiful women with full wombs and experience that Goodness

Third, we encounter a **Fullness of Love**. Mary and Elizabeth are signs of God's Love for humanity and the Love that humanity can have for God: The Love that Mary and Elizabeth had is immense. The name "Elizabeth" means "house of God" and so she was! The name "Mary" means "beloved" and so she was! What about us? How might our names, our very lives, reflect a fullness of Love?

This last week of Advent is the time to loosen our defenses and open our hearts. Allow mercy and forgiveness, the way of God and His Peace, to expand your capacity to receive and be set free. For the Fullness of Days, Life and Love are now here. Sing for joy this week, I close with some fitting words.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
 my spirit rejoices in God my Savior  
 for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
 From this day all generations will call me blessed:  
 the Almighty has done great things for me,  
 and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him  
 in every generation.  
 He has shown the strength of his arm,  
 he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,  
 and has lifted up the lowly.  
 He has filled the hungry with good things,  
 and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel  
 for he remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers,  
 to Abraham and his children forever.

(Lk 1: 46-55)

Peace,

Fr. Rogers