



*do justice • love tenderly • walk humbly with God* Micah 6:8

**December 19, 2024**

We begin all of our prayer in the presence of our loving Creator; because we are all created in the very image and likeness of God!

**As a Christian community, we know this:**

**God tells us to Rejoice!**

**Daily reflection:**

*(Vincentian Christmas Novena, first prophecy)*

Every Advent, the Vincentian Fathers & Brothers and the Daughters of Charity, among others, celebrate with a sung evening prayer, the Christmas Novena. It contains a number of Old Testament prophecies. In these we hear:

“Rejoice, O daughter of Zion! And be happy daughter of Jerusalem...”

“Be glad for the Lord will appear, and your Lord cannot deceive. If it should seem that he is late, then wait for Him. For he shall come when he is sure that you are ready.”

**Daily decision for action...**

Sometimes it seems that the wait is endless. We’re supposed to be joyful, but when is the Lord going to appear? How can we be sure that we are ready?

We’re told to get ready by making a place in our hearts. Maybe, if there is a place in our hearts, the Lord has already appeared to us! Maybe the Lord appeared in someone we met yesterday. Maybe the Lord will appear in someone we stop to help today. Prepare. Make a place. Rejoice!

**Intercessions/ our prayer for our world:**

For the Church during this season of Advent, that our own joy will show God’s love to the world.

For all nations in the world, for peace and respect among all people.

For parents and children in difficult circumstances, that they will find joy in the love of those around them.

For all of us, that we will spread the joy of God to everyone we meet.

**Blessing:** *(the prayer of Aaron upon the people: Num. 6:23b–26)*

May the Lord bless you and keep you!

May the Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!

May the Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!

*And we say together with all of the people of God:*

**Amen!**