



First Week of Advent
Wednesday December 2nd, 2020

Mr. Joel Kelley, Assistant Director of Campus Ministry, shares his reflections on today's Scripture readings.



IS 25:6-10a; PS 23:1-3A, 3B-4, 5, 6; MT 15:29-37

I don't know if you've ever hiked up a mountain, but it is not easy. The uneven terrain, high altitude, and constant uphill trudging makes for difficult and slow progress. You have to really commit to the climb, so to speak, if you want the benefit of a beautiful, bird's-eye view of the surrounding area stretching into the forever of the horizon.

That's part of the reason why today's Gospel is so crazy! Not only does Jesus go off by himself to some mountain to get some "me-time," but the crowds proceed to follow him all the way there. And "the crowd" isn't just a bunch of superathletes keen on mountain-climbing: they bring with them the lame, the blind, the deformed, the mute. In short, the crowd brings people who wouldn't be able to make it on their own to Jesus.

So what does this have to do with Advent? Obviously, we are waiting expectantly for Emmanuel AKA the Messiah AKA Jesus, but this is not a passive waiting. It is a time of preparation, a time to get our hearts ready to receive the Lord of the Universe. And to prepare our hearts, we have to "commit to the climb." I don't mean that we have to go physically summit a mountain (though that would be way fun), but I do mean that we need to devote our lives to Jesus. If we haven't been praying every day, now is the time to make just five minutes to daily talk with God; if we haven't been going to Mass or seeking Reconciliation, now is the time to begin!

The best part is this: once we commit to the climb of intentionally seeking the Lord, we can bring others with us. Though we might be lame or deformed or broken ourselves, seeking and striving after God together -- accompanying our brothers and sisters on their faith journeys

together -- will help bring us much joy and healing. Once we commit to the climb, we will together see the Rising Sun stretching over the mountain, bathing us all in glorious light.

Faith: Lived, Deepend, Celebrated

During these uncertain times, we welcome your prayer requests. The Bishop Chatard community will lift up your prayer intentions in the weekly BCHS Prayer Chain. **Email Mr. Steven Patzke at spatzke@bishopchatard.org your prayer intentions or to join the prayer chain.**