



**Fourth Week of Advent**  
**Thursday, December 24th, 2020**

*Mrs. Margaret Ruffings, Director of Development,  
shares her reflections on today's Scripture readings.*



2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16; PS 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29; LK 1:67-79

*The tender compassion of our God,  
will break upon us  
and guide our feet into the way of Peace!*

Ah, Peace! That's it! That's what I want in my heart this Christmas!

In a year none of us will soon forget, but all will be glad to move beyond, that Peace has sometimes alluded me. I find myself seeking to understand more deeply what God is calling me to with the trials that are in front of me: my sorrow with the death of a dear friend, separation from loved ones, loneliness on those days that are just too quiet, and the ache that comes from knowing the sufferings of so many.

This phrase - *the Tender Compassion of our God* – is resting deep within me. Closing my eyes to the image of a gentle, loving, warm embrace of our Creator - feeling such tenderness - brings a deep breath, a release if you will, of those areas hurting a bit too much. With that rest has come a touch of peace. In that peace - an openness, or an awareness of how much God loves me. In turn, that love keeps drawing me naturally beyond myself. In God's compassion for all those aches and struggles within, he repeatedly replaces it with a heart of gratitude and peace.

In that peace, I desire to exercise tenderness and compassion especially to those right in front of me. But too, for those hidden from view that need to be seen and loved by me.

On this holiest of nights, my prayer includes gratitude for the tender and compassionate moments showered on me by our dear Lord, and for the tender mercy he has graced me with for those that I hadn't realized needed it! It also includes a prayer for you, that you will feel the PEACE of our Lord in your heart and know the Power of CHRISTMAS!

**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](mailto:spatzke@bishopchatard.org), your prayer intentions or to join the prayer chain.**