



**First Week of Advent**  
**Friday December 4th, 2020**

*Mrs. Pam Nixon, College Counselor,  
shares her reflections on today's Scripture readings.*



IS 29:17-24; PS 27:1, 4, 13-14; MT 9:27-31

I love today's readings because of the hope shining through. This year, hope and faith have been, and will continue to be, so important. Each week, we see more businesses closing their doors, more people getting sick, and more stress piling up. It is so easy to get discouraged and become frustrated. What if we take a step back and look at things in a different way?

But a very little while,

More businesses will be helped by their neighbors and communities to stay open.

More people will be able to say they have recovered from the virus.

More people will learn to check on their friends and family members to help reduce the pile of stress that is affecting others.

More people will stop looking for flaws in the opinions of others and look instead for passion in the eyes of people who want to move our country forward.

More people will stop looking at their screens and look instead for the twinkle in the eyes of children waiting for Christmas.

More energy will be focused not on the dread of a long list of things to study, but on the excitement of answering the last question on the last final of the semester.

More people will come to know not the gloom and darkness, but the light of Jesus.

Why would we set our focus on the possibility of good things to come instead of on the painful realities of today? Wouldn't more progress come from problem solving than from looking into the distance at something that is shiny, but not yet guaranteed?

Because of our faith. If Mary...and everyone who heard about Jesus after her and chose to believe...had faith, why wouldn't we? Why wouldn't we set our focus on the possibility of good things to come?

“Do you believe that I can do this?”  
“Yes, Lord,” they said to him.  
Then he touched their eyes and said,  
“Let it be done for you according to your faith.”

We do believe. We believe that we will come out of this trying time with joy that sometimes didn't seem imaginable in March, or June, or November. We believe that our desires and our plans are tiny compared to the plans of God. We believe that the hope of Advent can last all year long if we put our faith in God's plan. And let it be done, not according to our plan, but according to our faith.

But a very little while.

**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.**