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GOOD COUNSEL
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Father Matt's Musings December 5, 2019

Advent: A Time of Hope and Expectation

My oldest brother Steve has loved Christmas since he was a young boy. He still gets very excited each December. He is hard to shop for though because even though he is now 63, he still approaches the day as a five-year-old boy. He has the hope of getting everything he wants but the expectation of being surprised by every gift he opens. Since he does not provide a list, it is difficult to know what he wants. He has high hopes and high expectations around Christmas.

In a similar fashion, the Scriptures tell us that many in Israel had high hopes and high expectations of a Messiah (at the time of Jesus) who would restore the prominence of Israel as a political and military power. Consequently, as a Suffering Messiah, it was easy to see how Jesus did not fit into that idea of a military and political hero. As so often is the case with our God, it is easy to miss God's work if we do not change our expectations and look to be surprised.

This Advent, let us try to live in hope and expectation. We are called to live with high hopes because of the salvation, love, and life that God offers us in Christ during His first coming. But let us temper our expectations to realize that God works through unexpected people, times and ways to visit us and show us God's love. We are also called in ways to be God's love to unexpected others and at times we can least predict. Happy Advent! Let us live with high hopes, reasonable expectations and looking to be surprised.

Live Jesus!

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All through love, nothing through force or fear.

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