



IHM Advent Today 12-22-2020

Good morning and Happy 4th Week of Advent to you (December 22, 2020). As we enter into the final week of Advent we are happy to share the following reflection from one of our parishioners on the Mass readings today and hope that it will help you today and during this holy season of Advent. Below you will find information from our parish Advent Calendar on today's happenings at IHM. More information can be found on our website:

<https://ihmparish.net>

We invite you to reflect and participate as we prepare ourselves and our parish community for the coming celebration of Christmas.

With hope and peace,

The IHM Engaging Disciples Team

Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Advent

Link: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/122220.cfm>

[1 Samuel 1:24-28](#)

[1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8](#)

[Luke 1:46-56](#)

I read of 2 women who have opened their hearts fully to the Lord. Hanna asks the Lord for a child and He grants her request. Hanna accepts the gift with love and unflinching faith. To thank God she dedicates Samuel to him and leaves him at the temple. Hannah is not afraid and remains dedicated and open in her faith to God.

Mary does not ask for a child but is granted a most hold gift by the Lord because of her openness and faithfulness to the Lord. Mary although fearful at first, accepts the Word spoken to her with utter openness. Her fear dissolves and Mary offers herself as God's servant, unafraid to bear forth the child Jesus. Mary praises God for his holiness and greatness. She sees that God rewards those who see only good things, who show mercy, who show compassion and kindness, who love.

Both women's faith helped to prepare them for accepting God's word and actions. Faith has also prepared them for what is to come later in life. Hannah for dedicating Samuel to the Lord and Mary to know of the physical loss of her child. Both women returned to God what had been given to them. The Lord will reward those with open hearts and acceptance of faith, those who will think of others first in love and compassion. He is there for those who may be failing and will give them strength as they turn to him. Preparing ourselves to accept God, in all that is happening in the world today can be difficult task...

But, praying and asking God for help, preparing your heart for acceptance will ease fear, settle confusing thoughts, clear hearts and minds from the cloudiness of indecision. His love will give strength.

As Advent comes to a close can you reflect on your openness for accepting God in your life? Prepare for submitting to God for what he asks of us? Prepare for his love and gifts he will give to you if you ask? Let us not be afraid to be open to the Lord. Open your heart to the Lord in preparation of this Christmas Joy. Ask God what is it we can do for Him. Talk with God and tell him: I am your servant Lord, direct me where you need me to be. His love and strength will guide you.

ARE YOU READY?

Anna Clark

IHM Advent Calendar Tuesday December 22, 2020

Virtual Wine and Cheese Discussion: 7:30 pm- Incarnation and Christmas

Please email engagingdisciples@ihmparish.net to register and receive zoom link information

Advent Week 4: Please see our website or bulletin for upcoming events including zoom gatherings for adults as well as the recording of our Live nativity and Lessons and Carols as well as our regular masses.

Christmas Mass-All Christmas Masses will be live streamed on our Facebook page

<https://facebook.com/ihmnj/>

Mass will be celebrated according to the following schedule. Thank you to all who participated in our survey to help us in serving you this Christmas.

Christmas Eve December 24th

4:00 pm in the church

4:15 pm in the Nazareth Center

6:00 pm in the church

10:30 pm in the church

Christmas Day December 25th

8:00 am in the church

10:00 am in the church

Noon in the church

Due to Covid restrictions and protocol you must make a reservation for Mass. Reservations can be made through our website: <https://ihmparish.net> or by calling the office at (908) 889-2100. Reservations can be made beginning at 9:30 am on Monday December 14th. Thank you for your understanding, patience and cooperation.