

## WAITING PATIENTLY

(an Advent Reflection)

Sister Marianne Postiglione, RSM – 2021

(Director of Lectors – St. Dominic’s Church)

As I reflect on the Season of Advent, and the richness found in the readings, two words come to mind: *patience and waiting*. The two of course are allied but can be thought of in various ways. Let’s look at those both together. Normally, as citizens of our fast-paced 21<sup>st</sup> century America, most of us don’t favor waiting patiently. How patient are we as we wait for a slow internet link to open? How patient are we as we wait for the long line of people ahead of us at the supermarket checkout to move? How patient are we--as Fr. Tom Costa has mentioned-- as we queue up to exit the parking lot after a crowded Sunday Mass? Admittedly these are mere annoyances of waiting in life; but there is a deeper kind of waiting as well: the “waiting patiently” we see throughout the readings for Advent – truly an abundance of riches! Riches that we are invited to mine.

We read the beautiful and comforting words in Isaiah, Zephaniah, Micah, Baruch and other Old Testament writers, “Patience, People, for the Lord is coming.” This is the Lord who becomes incarnate, takes on our flesh, becomes one of us --“one of the family,” our family. What an awe-inspiring thought!

How do we make these reflections and thoughts our own during Advent? Some of us prefer listening to music. Therefore I highly recommend the first part of Handel’s Messiah available on almost any internet venue. Taken largely from the Old Testament, especially the book of Isaiah, Handel offers a wealth of beauty and inspiration for meditating on the word of God in music. For the more modern-oriented, I recommend the Jesuit piece, “Patience People” a peaceful, musically and textually rich reflection on the thoughts of Isaiah. And of course, *What Child is This?* offers us a medieval meditation, a theological reflection on the meaning of the Incarnation.

Take time out from the necessary and unnecessary shopping this Advent to give a gift to yourself and your family by pondering the uplifting messages from the readings. The Sunday readings are available in the Missalettes for your convenience. Take the readings home with you and keep them in your heart during the week. They are enriching beyond all imaginings.

So, the next time you find yourself impatiently waiting in a lengthy supermarket line or gritting your teeth in exasperation as you make your way out of the crowded parking lot, think of the marvelous alternative the Lord offers us for patiently waiting during Advent: Not just the easy egress from annoying situations, but God Himself, incarnate, who has become one of us, in the flesh.

After all, isn’t the greatest Gift of all worth waiting for?

*(Other references for Advent: Bishop Robert Barron’s Daily reflections available on line at Word on Fire Institute and daily reflections from the USCCB)*