



Thanksgiving was over. It had been a great day. But now onto bigger and better things. Little Alex knew exactly what he needed to do. It was time to write to Santa. He pulled out a piece of paper and sat down at his desk and he started.

Dear Santa,
I've been good all year.....(a pause)
Okay, most of the time...(another pause)
Well, once in a while....(longer pause)
Oh, never mind.
I'll buy my own stuff...

Today we begin the Season of Advent and as we begin, the Church suggests that we start this season by looking back on our lives and once again discovering how we have lived in the past in order that we might adjust our behaviors in anticipation of what is about to happen in the present.

It is important to understand that there are many things that are about to happen. Yes, Christmas is certainly about to happen. But so is that moment when the master will return to ask of us to give an account of our lives. And Christ's coming is not limited to either December 25th or the close of our earthly journey. For Christ comes to us in countless ways at moments we least expect it.

The readings today suggest several things to guide us through this Advent Season. The first is to be like little Alex who should be admired for the courage to look honestly at his life. We need to look honestly at our own lives...have we been the person God created us to be? Have we been compassionate to the poor, tender to those who are in need and loving to those who have forgotten what it means to be loved?

And combined with our honest examination of our own lives the first reading today begs us to never forget that God is our father. God is our redeemer for whom we wait because he will lead us from our failings to a new world where mercy, compassion and justice will reign supreme.

Secondly Advent calls us to gratitude for all the people in our lives whose goodness reveals to us the presence and action of Christ in our world. And finally, the Gospel reminds us...we don't have time to waste...act now. Take Advent seriously.

Christ is coming. Indeed Christ **is** coming. So let us let go of those things that weigh us down. Let us take Advent seriously so that the Lord will not find us sleeping but ready to greet Him and welcome Him into our hearts.