

Homily
Friday of the First Week of Advent
December 2, 2022

Who has their tree up? Decorations? Have you mailed all your Christmas cards? Bought all your Christmas presents? Wrapped all those presents? Who's ready for Christmas?

What about all those other things that keep us busy? I have a job that takes most of my time during the day, week in and week out. I have a wife, kids, dogs, all who make demands on my time. How can I get ready for Christmas with all these responsibilities?

What about the things that weigh heavily on my mind. Finances, home repairs, health issues; I could go on and on. I'm probably not alone in looking at a very busy schedule, a very busy life.

Twenty-three days. We all know it's coming, but are we really prepared? Twenty-three days. We are already five days into a season of preparation. But what are we preparing for?

I have so many things on my mind that it wasn't until I sat down to write this that I realized five days have gone by and I haven't really begun to prepare. Yes, I've decorated, bought presents, gone to work, held meetings, did my reports, prayed as I'm supposed to, fed my dogs, kissed my wife. But have I given it much thought? I feel like I'm going through the motions without giving it much thought.

The two blind men in today's Gospel saw better before they were cured than I see right now. They, in their blindness, saw the living God. It was their faith that healed them. What do I see?

Jesus said, "Let it be done for you according to your faith." It was their faith that healed them. How's my faith? Am I prepared?

The Church is very wise in holding to the liturgical seasons. We need these seasons to help us along our faith journey. And now, more than ever, we need this season of Advent to stop, reflect and consider what is about to happen.

In twenty-three short days, the Word will come among us. The God of the Universe will be one of us in all ways but sin. Jesus, our Brother, our Lord, will walk among us. And the Church has given us this season to prepare. We prepare our hearts to welcome Him. We prepare our lives to walk with Him.

Are you prepared? I'm not, but I am going to take these next twenty-three days and prepare as best as I can. I'm going to take time to reflect on the Love God has for us in giving us His only Son. I'm going to pray that my heart may be opened to welcome Him. I'm going to work hard at realizing that besides all my responsibilities, the most important responsibility is to see Jesus; see Him in the Sacrament we are about to receive and in the people around me that God has put in my path.

Jesus warned them sternly, "See that no one knows about this." I'm going out and spread word of Him, in what I say, and what I do. Please join me in preparing for the greatest gift in all the world.