

Second Hand Preacher

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2015

Philippians 4:4-7

This is a reading for Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is translated rejoice. This is a very festive reading that repeats the word rejoice. St. Paul is grateful to the Christians in Philippi for all they have done for him. They reportedly helped him financially and personally. These verses are like prayer for the wellbeing of the community. This could be something the community does liturgically through song and spoken word. They probably celebrated some sort of Agape meal that would have been a precursor to the Mass. These words would have been a definite source of motivation to put some joy into practice.

I believe that we as Christians today should find this very motivating. We should rejoice on this Third Sunday of Advent and really keep joy at least in the background all year. This is the Jubilee Year of Mercy and we should approach this year with pure joy in our hearts. In this year, we are to give and receive mercy and this is very much worth celebrating.

We should do this by singing and praying the best we know how. One should consider joining a choir or becoming a lector to help make the celebration of the Eucharist even better. At any rate, we should try to be full and active participants in all celebrations of liturgical prayer. We as Christians have been given the greatest gift. Jesus Christ has entered our hearts and this should be an occasion of pure joy! We are less than two weeks from celebrating the solemnity of Christmas. This is one of the greatest festivals of the year! The Lord taking flesh and dwelling among us is indeed a great cause to rejoice about. We have a few days to prepare the manger of our hearts for the coming of Jesus.