

From Father Pat

Travels. A lot us will be traveling for the holidays. Some for a week. Some for months. Wouldn't it be great if we knew that all the travel would go smoothly? No traffic jams. No flight cancellations.

This year, we definitely hear in our Sunday readings that Advent is a journey; Our journey to God; God's journey to us.

What is at the end of our holiday journeys? Most of us are expecting happy gatherings; loved family and friends; gifts, food, joy. Then again, not all holiday travel is happy. For some there is a challenge; a problem to solve; issues to resolve. The first Christmas without mom or dad. Such a trip is needful but hard to make without anxiety.

What about your journey to a closer relationship with God? What new discoveries are out there? What new gifts is God offering to us? Gifts of spiritual nourishment and fellowship and reassurance? What obstacles are on the road? Or what anxieties are in your own heart that would discourage you from taking this journey? Fear, doubt? A loss of faith?

There is nothing wrong with having a quiet, cozy Christmas once in a while. But a life without journeys can become a lonely, disappointing place. Sometimes we just have to pack our bag and force ourselves out that door to start a new journey. Is this the year to make Advent a real spiritual journey that will bring you to a deeper relationship with God?

Listen. Advent's vital call is to a time for quiet reflection. Listen.

What need or hopes are you experiencing that God can respond to? What promises is God offering? Even if there seems to be obstacles on the way, remember, there will be plenty of people along the path to help you with your journey.

There's the door. Let's start the journey.

Fr. Pat