



OUR LADY of  
GOOD COUNSEL  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

## Fr. Matt's Musings

### December 17, 2018

#### *Space*

I grew up on Russell Road in Alexandria. There were seven of us in the house. I shared a bedroom with my two older brothers and the seven of us shared one bathroom. Fortunately, we lived two houses from Maury elementary school with its basketball courts and fields. It provided open, outdoor space. There was not much privacy or personal space at home.

On July 1, 1979 I entered the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales. I am in my fortieth year with the Oblates, and in that time, I have had my own bedroom for all but one of those years. I love my ministry as an Oblate and priest and my time with the OLG C community, but as an introvert, I like my space and time by myself. Space is also a good theme for the spiritual life.

Our two New Testament Advent figures create space in their lives for Jesus. They make room for him in their hearts and lives. John the Baptist is the classic number two figure. He is the best supporting actor or the record holder for assists. All he does prepares for Jesus, points to him and makes way for him. Mary changes her whole life to make room for Christ and to literally carry him and give birth to him.

Our role as disciples is to make room for Christ. Gratitude, generosity, sacrifice, loving service and a communal and personal prayer life all help us to imitate Jesus' life. C.S. Lewis wrote about humility, "Humility does not mean that we think less of ourselves but that we think of ourselves less. As we prepare for Christmas, let us remember the examples of John the Baptist and Mary and make room for Christ.

Live Jesus!

*Fr. Matt*

[frhillyard@olgcva.org](mailto:frhillyard@olgcva.org)  
[www.olgcva.org](http://www.olgcva.org)

---

You're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in OLG C Catholic Community.

Please add [frhillyard@olgcva.org](mailto:frhillyard@olgcva.org) to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

If you know someone who would like to be added to the list have them email

[communications@olgcva.org](mailto:communications@olgcva.org).

See what's happening on our social sites

