



## **Fr. Matt's Musings** **December 15, 2017**

### **Silence**

There is something unsettling about the Second, Third and Fourth Sundays of Advent. We do not hear from Jesus. On the second and third Sundays, we hear from John the Baptist and from Mary on the fourth. We hear about Jesus on these Sundays; there is reference to him, but he is silent. St. Jane de Chantal stated that she prayed for thirty years without experiencing the consolation of God's presence. St. Teresa of Calcutta lamented the same. In this season of Advent hope, preparation and promise, we also recognize the moments or periods of seemingly divine silence. Even Jesus experienced this at a very crucial time in his life. We hear his own words from the cross, "My God, why have you forsaken me?" Jesus' experience teaches us that silence should not be equated with absence. Jesus' resurrection is the ultimate statement that God is always with us and for us. St. Thomas Aquinas said that if God ever stopped thinking about us, for even a second, we would cease to exist. God's promise is to be with us always. Let us live faithfully and courageously during those periods of silence remembering the words of St. Francis de Sales: "Let us always seek the God of all consolation and not the consolations of God." Happy Third Week of Advent!

Live Jesus!

*Fr. Matt*

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