

## Waiting...for Christmas

As of this writing, there are 20 more days before Christmas. I remember when I was growing up, I could not **wait** to see all the presents under the tree on Christmas morning. There was **joy** and **excitement** that superimposed the feelings of that day especially when we gathered around the tree and open our gifts. I was so excited to find out if I got what I wanted ... mostly I did not receive what I wanted but it was always a gift that surprised me.

Waiting is one of the expressions of the Season of Advent. We wait for the coming of someone... who is the biggest gift in our lives. We easily get bored while waiting... we are very eager to get what we expected and sometimes we don't have the patience to wait. While we are waiting for Christmas, it is nice to make ourselves busy. Let us wrap a gift for that someone who is coming... wrap your heart with **excitement, joy, peace, and full of colors** then put it under your tree so that, when he comes, your gift will be ready and I'm sure you will receive a big surprise in return.

My dear friends, let us appreciate the beauty of waiting for the coming of the Lord. Let us make ourselves ready because when he comes, I'm sure, we will be busy being with Him.

Regarding the coming celebration of Christmas, below is a guidance from the Archdiocese of Portland. Please be guided accordingly.

*"Christmas Day 2017 is on Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> of December which follows the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, 24<sup>th</sup> of December. There have been some questions with regard to the obligations of these Holydays.*

*There are two distinct obligations which must be met by attending two Masses. While two obligations must indeed be fulfilled by two Masses, it is not necessary that one of these Masses be a Mass of Fourth Sunday of Advent and the other be a Christmas (Eve/Night/Dawn/Day) Mass. One can fulfill the two obligations also by attending Christmas Eve Mass (or Night Mass if before midnight) on the Sunday and a Christmas Night/Dawn/Day Mass on the Monday from midnight onwards.*

*It is not the liturgical celebration that matters but the fact of being at Mass. Obviously the separate celebration of the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent and the Nativity of the Lord would be the preferred observance. The participation at one Mass only will not fulfil both obligations."*

**-Ace Tupasi**