

December 23-24, 2017
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Samuel 7:1-16

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

Be they weddings, special anniversaries, parties or honorable events, the weeks and days leading up to the scheduled celebration are carefully choreographed so as to insure that everything desired will be in place. Food needs to be ordered and either prepared or picked up, reservations may need to be arranged, the house requires cleaning and prepping and of course there are the decorations and considerations for how the guests will be seated and with whom. FINALLY....there are the few hours RIGHT BEFORE the event gets underway when we mentally check off the last box of preparation...and then pour ourselves a glass of wine or Pellegrino and enjoy the event as it occurs. Especially this year, with the Fourth Sunday of Advent cramming up 'close and personal' with Christmas Eve/Day, all our preparations for Christmas are done...now, we just wait a handful of hours until the Christmas Eve Masses get underway and open ourselves to Christmas 2017. In these fleeting minutes before our anticipation is satisfied, a reminder that the gift of Christmas cannot be ordered online or drone-dropped by Amazon; the gift requires no batteries but can either thrive or wither based on how we handle what we are given; this gift will not do well in a closet or on a shelf; this gift needs light, life, honesty and love. If handled well, this gift will be different with each tomorrow, but will not play the game of make-believe nor honor deception. The gift of Christmas is not something to be worn but welcomed into the inner recesses where no clothes are needed. In these next hours there will be music and bright lights and warm embraces and good food and discarded wrapping paper but the gift offered (and hopefully received) is a WHO not a what....and remember, as much as Jesus is the Father's gift to YOU....You are the only gift God wants for Christmas.

Thank you for celebrating these last hours of Advent with our Santa Clara community. We hope to see you later this weekend at either the Sunday 4pm, 6:30pm or 9pm....or at 10am on Monday, Christmas morning. Thank you for being part of the Santa Clara de Asis family of faith that keeps growing and changing with each passing year...may this Christmas be a time of rich blessing and grace for you and those you love. A Blessed and Merry Christmas to YOU! Love, FKB