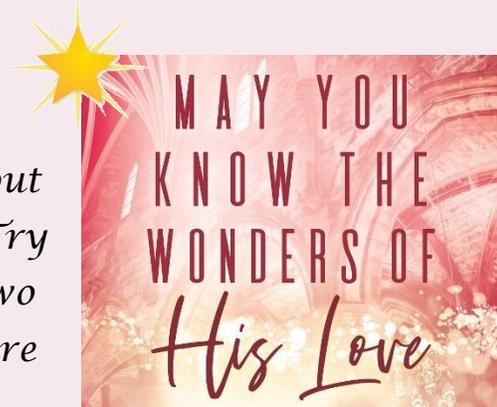




*From the Desk of Father Peter*

*These are the Days of Wonders and Miracles*

*As Advent draws to a close, we focus more on the Birth of Our Savior. The Gospel reading for this weekend is about Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth. Try and imagine the conversation these two women might have had. We can picture them in their excitement.*



*During the days of Advent, think of yourself as standing in the circle of God, like Joseph. Hear God say to you, "you are not forgotten." In Advent we do not hear much about Joseph yet he is one of the principle characters this time of the year. He is an important personality in God's plan of salvation for us. Joseph is the symbol of compassion in this awakening to God's presence among us. Are we ready to follow his foot steps?*

*...think about Joseph's compassion?...think about his care and concern for the Holy Family? If we are ready, then I invite you to see for yourself as a follower of the way of God's plan of salvation. We all must care about the world around us.*

*Advent is an awakening moment. The Church is about evangelizing and growing in holiness. It's about everyday people responding to the Spirit and working together in love to achieve the vital goal of being transformed in Christ. Like Joseph, our hearts must open and God's mercy be revealed to us. Our Jewish ancestors in the faith received this revelation as a name, Emmanuel—God is with us. The Church helps prepare us with words of hope and anticipation and so I say—bravo! I have been*

*overwhelmed with the tremendous support we had for our Angel Tree Project. We will make many hearts happy. The love of our faith community here at St. John's is awesome! I sincerely thank all of you for your kindness. We honor God's Word when we welcome and allow the love of Christ to grow within us as we share ourselves like Joseph. He stood in the background of Jesus' life, but he certainly contributed immensely to the well-being of the Son of God.*

*I pray that we all have a peaceful last few days of Advent and Christmas week. I, along with our Parish Staff, Pastoral Council and Liturgy and Finance Committees wish all of our parishioners a very Merry Christmas. Thank you for all you do for our beloved St. John's!*



*Peace & Christmas Blessings to All*

*Fr. Peter Enyan-Boadu*