

We all know someone who absolutely has to have “the last word.” No matter what you say, they have something more to say.

Sometimes it can be funny ... like trying to say goodbye back and forth until you realize that you’re never going to get to go unless you give up.

Oftentimes, someone’s last words are memorialized by historians ... that is the last words they say before they die.

Among Thomas Jefferson’s last words were: “I resign my spirit to God.”

John Adams, who died just a few hours later supposedly said as his last words, “Jefferson?”

I guess one was waiting for the other.

Pope John Paul II’s last word was “Amen.”

Pope Alexander VI’s last words were “Wait a minute ...”

Mother Teresa’s last words were “Jesus I love you. Jesus I love you.”

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. The last week of Advent. And if we take the “last words” of the three Scripture readings, we can walk away with a wonderful meditation on today’s Scripture.

In the Gospel, Elizabeth has the last word. She says to Mary,

*“Blessed are you who believed
that what was spoken to you by the Lord
would be fulfilled.”*

And this can be something we can aspire to by cultivating a deeper and deeper Faith in God, and in Our Lord Jesus Christ. Only through an ongoing relationship with the Holy Trinity in prayer, can we expect to truly deepen our Faith. And as we approach the great feast of the Birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas, let us ask for the graces to have a deeper faith.

In the second reading, the last word is:

*“By this ‘will,’ we have been consecrated
through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”*

That is, the Will of Jesus Christ fully conformed to the Will of the Father. In the Lord’s Prayer, which we will pray right before Communion, let us focus on the words “Thy will be done.” Oftentimes, we get caught up in the thinking of the world, and our own

thinking becomes “my will be done.” But by conforming our own will to God’s Will, we can deepen our own consecration to God, and participate more fully in the *“offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all,”* which we re-present at every Mass on this altar.

And the final, “final word” is from the Prophet Micah: *“He shall be peace.”*

The ‘He’ mentioned here, again is Jesus Christ.

He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. And He **is** our peace.

So, if we’re looking for a little slice of peace in the busy-ness of this time of year, as we approach this altar to receive the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ, let us receive Him as our Peace.

And as we move toward Christmas and the end of the Advent season, let us truly seek to receive Jesus our Peace ... by embracing the Will of God ... and turning to prayer to deepen our Faith ... so that we may receive the Blessings that are ours as sons and daughters of God the Father, redeemed in Christ, and filled with the blessings and graces of the Holy Spirit.