

As we near the halfway point of Advent, we can see the difference between the world's perception of this season, and the Christian aspect of it.

Society has been ramping up to Christmas since just before Hallowe'en. 55 days of Christmas full of hectic, cut-throat, anxious shopping and spending ... followed by ... nothing.

Nothing. The clearance sales will start, the next garbage day will be a big one. And the stores will shift into gear for Martin Luther King Day; Valentine's Day; or President's Day.

For us, the season started 11 days ago with subdued liturgies ... penance ... and a time of joyful expectation. After four weeks of this, we will celebrate Christmas ... which is extended liturgically from a single day to eight days with it's own "Octave" ... not to mention the remaining days up to Epiphany ... giving us the "Twelve Days of Christmas."

In the Gospel, Our Lord tells us to come to Him and we "*will find rest for [our]selves*".

Advent celebrates the coming of Christ at Christmas ... and reminds us that He will come again.

But for us, we too need to 'come to Christ' and Advent is an appropriate time to do just this.

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ ... let us pray that we might enter into the 'rest' which Jesus promises. Let us make our way to Jesus ... in our hearts ... and as he comes to us in the Eucharist, let us receive that peace which the world cannot give from Him.