



4th SUNDAY of ADVENT ***YEAR C – December 23, 2018***

All the readings today, speak to us about the anticipation of the birth of Jesus, the son of God, the savior of our world.

On Monday Morning last week, the gospel for the weekday Mass was taken from the beginning of the Gospel of St. Matthew. Chapter 1, verses 1 to 17 and gives us the genealogy of Jesus. It concludes with these words: From Abraham to David - 14 generations, From David to the Babylonian Exile - 14 generations, From the Babylonian Exile to Jesus - 14 generations.

It tells us, Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Of her was born Jesus, who is called the Christ. Not everyone in that list is noble or saintly, like Joseph and Mary. Jacob stole his father's blessing.

Israel's kings make up the second group. They reflect the best and the worst of Israel. Among those listed are idolaters, murderers, and adulterers like King David.

Unknown people make up the third group. It reminds us that God is at work in people others might consider un-important, un-needed, un-wanted and un-loved.

Finally, the women in this genealogy have marital histories that include both scandal and scorn. If this genealogy were ours, we probably would not have wanted it published. And yet, in this family tree, we see how God's grace works through saint and sinner alike. He continues to work through us in the same way. And it's up to us to decide whether he's working through saints or sinners.

When you get to the end of the genealogy of Jesus, you find the name of Mary and the gospel simply says, "Of her was born Jesus who is called the Christ." She is the mother of Jesus in the physical sense. She carried Jesus in her womb and gave physical birth to him.

But she is also the mother of Jesus in a spiritual sense. And in that spiritual sense, as the mystic Meister Eckhart reminds us, the role of being “mother” of Christ in a mystical sense is available to all of us.

Several years ago, one of our catechists asked her children, who do you see when you look in the mirror in the morning. A little boy in second grade said, "I see Jesus". WOW! That little guy understood what Meister Eckhart was trying to put into words after his own mystical experience.

Jesus was born on Christmas Day because Mary said, “Yes”. He is also born again and again, every time someone can look in the mirror in the morning - and see Jesus.

For a few moments in silence reflect on this question, “Who do you see in the mirror in the morning?”

