

**Monday of the 2nd Week of Advent
St. Peter and St. Joseph Children's Home – Dec. 5, 2016**

I am going to ask you a question, and it should be a pretty clear answer, okay? Are you ready? As we go through Advent preparing for Christmas, who are we getting ready for? *** ** Jesus! That's right! We are preparing for the coming of the Lord Jesus. But have you ever thought about why we call him Jesus? What does that name "Jesus" mean? It turns out, the name "Jesus" literally means "salvation" or "savior." So, when we say we are preparing for the coming of our savior, we really mean that literally. Like the Psalm today says, "Our God will come to save us!"

In the Gospel, this is exactly what the friends of the crippled man were thinking. Jesus is here; the Savior is here. They knew that Jesus could help their friend. Even though the man was paralyzed, they knew that the Lord was salvation; they knew he would live up to his name. So, when they could not get through the front door, their faith drove them to drag their friend up to the roof, rip open the ceiling, and lower the man down to Jesus below. That's how sure they were that Jesus could make him whole. That is some very serious faith isn't it?

But, there were others there who were not so sure. These were the Pharisees, and those who were supposed to teach the people about God. They could not see why everyone was so eager to get to Jesus. When they heard the name, it just made them angry. They could not see how this man could claim to be salvation. They just

could not open their hearts. So, they were ruled by fear, by anger, and by doubts.

But Jesus showed them the truth. Not only did he heal the paralyzed man, but he also forgave his sins! Jesus brought complete healing to the man, he brought true salvation. This was the power of Christ and the faith of those people. This is the faith God is calling us to have during Advent as we prepare for the coming of salvation, the coming of Jesus.

God wants us to remember that even though hard things can happen to us in life, we should not be afraid. He is with us always. We hear this in the words of the Prophet Isaiah from the first reading: “Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God.” We hear it through those famous words of Pope Francis from his first World Youth Day in Brazil: “Go, do not be afraid, and serve.” Our Lord is with us and he loves us. Jesus, who is literally salvation.

So, my brothers and sisters, do not be afraid. Do not let yourselves be anxious or angry. Open your hearts to peace during this Advent Season, and get your heart ready for Jesus.

We ask Our Lady of Guadalupe to be with us, and to help us prepare our hearts. That way, when we celebrate the coming of the Lord at Christmas, we can join the people from the Gospel and love God with awe and joy. “Our God will come to save us!” Jesus is coming, who is salvation.