

December 23, 2018 – 4th Sunday of Advent – Cycle C
Fr. Larry Richards

Good morning and how are you? Blessed! We are blessed with Mary today, all generations. Well what happens the reason I believe that Mary was so blessed isn't because she had Jesus in her, which was what blessed her. Wasn't just because she believed in the Lord's Will, because Elizabeth blessed are you who believed. She was blessed because of the first line of the Gospel: Mary set out in haste. That Mary was so generous. Here she was just told she was going to be the Mother of God, she said yes to that. Jesus Christ, the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords; the God the Universe Cannot Contain took up residence inside of her. Now, any woman here who has been pregnant knows the first three months can be pretty bad right? That's how you usually find out. You're sick, you're all this stuff.

Now if there was anybody on this Earth who was ever created at the beginning of time to the end who could have said "Listen, I gotta put myself first. I have Jesus inside of me, this isn't just for me that I am doing this. I'm doing this to protect the God of the Universe inside of me. So I better stay home and take care of me first and make sure everything is fine. Right? But that isn't what she did. She got up in haste, and went and took care of somebody else for three months. She put Elizabeth before her. She already knew what God is, inside of her. Someone who left heaven, for us. Someone who would be born for us. Someone who would die for us. Yes, the generosity. See for us! The Generosity of Mary is to remind that we too need to be generous.

That when we get close to Christmas tomorrow, we need to be focusing on giving away our life, putting other people's needs in front of us. The way we've done it here for 17 years that you've had me with you. You have the thing on your bathroom mirror. Which is on everyone's bathroom mirror in this church correct? What are the three words on your bathroom mirror? I am third. Mary lived that. This could be the time where she implies this I am third. God was first, others are second, proved that! She put Elizabeth before her. She took the final step. She took the final place. Of course when she did that, God put her first. She is the greatest of our Grace, because she gave away everything and was more concerned about others right at the beginning.

So let's ask our Lady as we prepare for Christmas that we too would have that type of generosity. That we too would be more concerned about taking care of others than we are of ourselves. Then we learn what Christmas is about. It's others, not ourselves.

Got it? Get it? Gonna live it? May each of you know His love today and forever, Amen.