

Because my family all live in different states, and because I work on Christmas, we exchange Christmas gifts while the world seems to go crazy for in store shopping deals, black Friday. We celebrate thanksgiving at my parents in the south, that means I am done with all Christmas shopping and preparations, all the hustle and bustle of the season is done, and I am given the gift of focusing on the spiritual preparations for Christmas.

Most of us will be racking our brains over the coming month to find that perfect gift that says I love you, I appreciate you, you are my world, or what in the world does my five-year-old nephew like this month? The answer of course is cats.

But as we scoured the globe for gifts, we also need to think about the reason we give gifts in the first place. What we are preparing to celebrate with our families is God's greatest gift to humanity, a way out of the mess we made, a way back to the garden of Eden. The birth of our Savior is of course the gift that allows us to know our creator, but our Gospel today also points out that we not only celebrate His birth, but also live in anticipation for His second coming.

As we begin this Advent season, please try and set aside time each day to spiritually prepare your hearts, just as you prepare your homes for celebrating the birth of our Lord.

May the Love, Peace, and Grace of God be with you,
Fr.Adam