

JANUARY REFLECTION

Important things are worth waiting for.

We wait to be born.

We wait to die.

We wait for the sun to rise each morning and set each evening.

We wait for the cold of winter to turn into the first breath of springtime.

We wait for inspiration when we have difficult decisions to make.

We wait for God to unfold his plans for us.

We wait for understanding when nothing makes any sense.

We wait for sanity when all seems chaotic.

We wait for friendship to blossom.

We wait for love to envelop us.

We wait for wisdom, for wisdom comes only with age and experience; it comes after years of trying and failing; it comes after much reflection.

Jesus, too, must be awaited. He is awaited in history. He is awaited by the prophets who foretold of his coming. He is awaited by John the Baptist who heralded his arrival. He is awaited by Mary, for nine long months. He is awaited by Joseph. He is awaited by the Magi. He is awaited by Simeon. He is awaited by the Jewish people. He is awaited by us, the People of God.

Advent is a time of waiting. It is a time of preparation. It is a time of anticipation. What kind of preparations are we making as we look toward Christmas? Certainly, our preparations include shopping, wrapping presents, hanging decorations, decorating a tree, and planning our Christmas dinner. Some of us will be planning travels; some will be planning for houseguests. But, do our preparations also include time for reflection on the true meaning of Christmas? Do our preparations include prayer? Do our preparations include something for those less fortunate? Do our preparations include a time of gratitude for all God's gifts?

The faculty and staff of OLA wish each member of the OLA school community a happy, holy, peaceful Christmas and a New Year filled with wonderful surprises and good fortune. May our God bless each of us in a special way during this most special of seasons.