



## *Reflection from Fr. Mike Roach*

As the Advent season comes to a close, we at St. James have the beautiful image of the 'Visitation' before us. One of our stained glass windows depicts Mary and Elizabeth greeting each other. Both women are pregnant and overjoyed with seeing each other. Elizabeth had waited and waited all through her life to have a child; Mary, a teenager, was in awe and probably in fear of what God had in mind for her. Elizabeth and Mary both realized that God has trusted them and in return, they trusted God. The two of them believed in the wonder of God, how God always works in mysterious ways. And somehow, God's plans are fulfilled in God's time.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Christ-child this year, we come knowing we will hear the story that we need to hear - the angels telling the shepherds in the field, who were very much afraid, "Do not fear, I come to bring you tidings of great joy...." What is the Good News we need to hear? And where are the people around us who are waiting for the 'Good News'?

That's what the Advent/Christmas season is all about. May you and your loved ones know the Joy, the Hope and the Love of this season!

*~ Peace,  
Fr. Mike*