

We Plan, God Laughs

by Fr. Mark Pavlik
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Have you ever heard the saying “We Plan, God Laughs?” Ain’t that the truth? As we come to the last Sunday of Advent, we hear in today’s readings about plans — both human plans, and divine plans — and these plans reveal two great mysteries to us.

In our first reading, we hear about King David’s plans. He has, through the grace of God, secured his kingdom; “the Lord had given him rest from his enemies on every side.” Responding to a noble inspiration of his heart, King David wants to do something to express his gratitude towards the Lord. He wants to build the Lord a house, a temple, that is worthy of God’s glory.

“We Plan, God Laughs.”

While David’s intentions are certainly the best, God reminds him that He does not need anything from us. The Lord reminds David that He does not dwell in a house made by human hands, but rather “I have been with you wherever you went...”

In today’s Gospel reading, we hear that God’s promise to David will be fulfilled in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mary most likely had her own plans for her life, which one can safely say was not to give birth to the Messiah.

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All of us can think of times when God has disrupted our plans. Often when we are really busy and we do not want any interruptions, God brings us into contact with someone who needs our help. These events will invariably occur. How do we respond? Do we respond like Mary who said “YES” to God?

Mary’s “yes” lead her soul to “proclaim the greatness of the Lord,” and her spirit to “rejoice in God” her Savior. In this final Sunday of Advent we are being invited to allow God to disrupt our plans, so that we will make room for Christ Jesus to dwell in our lives. Then we will forever sing the goodness of the Lord.