

Winter, on the East Coast, silences the world with a thick blanket of snow leaving it lying dormant in anticipation of the new life to come in spring. How appropriate that this is the season that brings us to Advent- a time when we too wait in silent reflection as we prepare for the coming again of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We wait and prepare for the new life to begin, a Spring time blossoming for our souls.

What is Advent? To quote our beloved eighth grade teacher, Sister Lynne, "it is a time to prepare for all the comings of Christ- to commemorate the birth of Jesus, the everyday coming of Jesus (which we often fail to notice!), the coming of Jesus at our death, and the coming of Jesus at the end of time."

That snowy blanket provides a peace that is the perfect setting for the Advent season and invites quiet reflection. Advent is a time to reflect on our own lives. It is a time to look deep inside and find out what is preventing us from fully opening our hearts to Jesus. During this Advent season, I invite you to look inside your own life and see what is distracting you from God. Is it work, money, sports, keeping up appearances, keeping up with the "Jones" or something deeper- anger, indignation, grief, or disappointment? These Advent reflections can help us grow closer to God. They can also lead to some very meaningful New Years' Resolutions! You can use your reflections to create a resolution to get closer to God and to set the example of making more time for prayer and reflection for your children. You are, after all, their most important teacher!

I feel so Blessed to be a part of this community and want to take the opportunity to wish all of our staff members, families, and friends a peaceful Advent, a Merry Christmas, and a Blessed New Year.

May Peace be in your souls,

Jennifer Dean