

## **Advent Calendar: Day 14**

The reflections for this week are centered around the readings for this Sunday's texts  
1 Samuel 2:1-10, Romans 12:9-16b, Luke 1:39-57

### **Luke 1:39**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

Our texts for this last Sunday of Advent reflect on the visit between Mary and Elizabeth commonly referred to as "the Visitation." One of the many gifts of this occasion is the support and comfort Mary and Elizabeth must have received from each other. Unfortunately, this year the usual seasonal visits of family and friends are being rightly constrained to avoid giving a Covid infection to those we love instead of the affections we intend. This tragic loss of time together may give rise to particular feelings of sadness, isolation and loneliness. While understandable, recognize that the ultimate source of the joy and support between these two women is found in their mutual experience of God's activity in their lives. They are visiting in celebration of the way God has visited them and is visiting His people. While we may be physically separated from each other, God is with us in the comforting presence of Christ. This realization can support us in the love, hope, peace, and joy of the presence of Jesus in our lives.

While the traditional ways you gather with family and friends this year may not be possible or safe, consider other ways to connect. Make a short video; plan a Zoom/FaceTime visit; pick up the phone; or here is something novel- write a note. These intentional times of connection can give you the opportunity to express how the absence of their presence, makes you recognize all the more the blessings of their presence. Share with them the important influence they have made in your life and how grateful you are to God for placing them in your journey. Another way to connect with them is turn your heart and mind to them in prayer. Pray that Christ might come powerfully to them, filling them with the hope and joy and blessings of this season!