

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Homily 2018**  
**Making Room!**

“Let every heart, prepare him room.”

IT HAPPENED ON CHRISTMAS EVE at the famed Riverside Church in New York City. The Church was packed as the children performed the Christmas pageant. A little boy by the name of Tim played the part of the Innkeeper. His one line was simply; “There is no room in the Inn. Tim had a hard time memorizing his lines, so his parents practiced with him over and over. In the pageant when Mary & Joseph appeared before little Tim and asked for a room his parents were biting their lips hoping he would remember his line. Little Tim, dressed in a bathrobe and nightcap, blurted out perfectly, “THERE IS NO ROOM IN THE INN!” As Mary and Joseph lowered their heads and started down the aisle little Tim, almost in tears, yelled, “WAIT, WAIT. YOU CAN STAY AT MY HOUSE!”

The renowned pastor and preacher of Riverside Church, William Sloane Coffin, simply stood up and said, “AMEN!” He then sat down and cancelled his sermon. A little boy had summarized the Christmas message with the words, “YOU CAN STAY AT MY HOUSE!”

The Letter to the Hebrews tells us that by doing God’s will, Christ has consecrated us to God, once and for all. Doing God’s will means that we visit our world with the unconditional, merciful love God made visible in Jesus Christ. In these last two Advent days, invite Jesus to visit you in prayer. Make sure time to visit him. Let that visit help you discover God’s will and open your eyes to see the face of Christ where we might least expect it. Be the face of Christ for those who need a visit from our Lord. There was no room for Christ in the inn. Like Mary, make room in the inn of your heart and carry him into our world.

Almighty and ever-present God, you visited us by coming one with us in your Son, Jesus Christ. Help us believe that you love and care for us even when we feel small and unworthy. Fill us with your Spirit and help us to visit our sisters and brothers with the fruit of Mary’s womb, Jesus.

“Let every heart, prepare him room.”