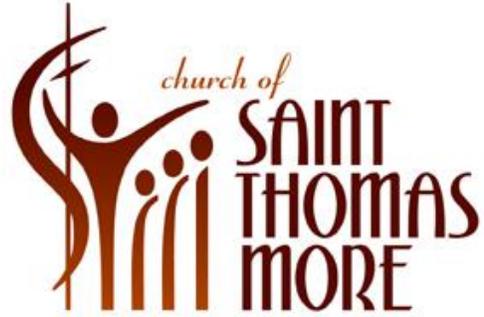


## **We're All Waiting for Something**

We do a lot of waiting. Waiting for that great job to come along. Waiting for that elusive perfect relationship. Waiting in line at the self-checkout lane at the supermarket, which was designed to eliminate waiting! Virginia waits for me to write these articles so she can send the bulletin to the publisher!



Researchers tell us that the average person will spend 5 years of his or her life waiting in line, 2 years playing telephone tag, and 6 months sitting at red lights. That's over 7 and a half years of waiting! The bottom line is that even in our fast-paced world, with postmodern conveniences, we are all waiting for something.

You think we have it rough, how about waiting thousands of years, not for something minor like groceries, but for a messianic king whose eternal reign would end the oppression of the world? What do we think about hoping and praying for something miraculous to happen, while successive generations are born and pass away, without a hint of fulfillment?

Then, hundreds of years later, born in Bethlehem, a small town in the Roman Empire, their hope is finally realized, but with a twist, because Jesus is not the earthly warrior-king many expected. Even after waiting, the final realization of the Messiah's eternal reign is still yet to be seen, coming in the future, when the baby born in Bethlehem returns in power to judge the living and the dead.

All that makes waiting five more minutes for a dried out bun and a tiny piece of meat from a fast-food restaurant seem pretty trivial.

During this Advent season, we wait with millions of others, named and unnamed, whose expectations of the future kingdom may have been hazy, yet who still yearned for something more than what they knew.

As we wait in long lines this Advent season, or as we wait for anything really, it is important that we remember the waiting of those expecting the Messiah, and always wait with patience, humility, and expectant hope in a state of prayer. I know it is difficult, but especially during Advent, waiting patiently is not only a good spiritual discipline, but could also lower our risk of holiday-induced blood pressure.

The Incarnation, God's Word made Flesh, is certainly worth waiting for.

*Steve Raml*  
*Liturgy & Music Director*