

## Advent I, Year A

**Psalm 24: 5-6. He shall receive a blessing from the Lord, a reward from God his savior. Such is the race that seeks for him, that seeks the face of the God of Jacob.**



*Laurie Miles is a wife, mother of two, and the Facilities Coordinator of the St. John Family Center. She is a lector, a Eucharistic Minister, a member of the parish Pastoral Council and coordinator of the BeFriender ministry. Laurie holds a Bachelor of Arts in Business and Computer Science from the University of Michigan and a Bachelor of Arts in Theological Studies from Sienna Heights University.*

I've been thinking about Hebrews 11:1 that says, "Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen." I looked up faith in the dictionary and it says "Faith is belief without proof and confidence and reliance and belief in God." If you look up belief it says, "Belief is the act of believing. Faith." The definition of *faith* uses the word "belief." The definition of *belief* uses the word "faith."

What caught my attention was the phrase "evidence of things not seen." We believe in God even though we think we never see him, but we really do. God reveals himself to us in our daily lives.

A time when this became evident to me was during my pregnancy with my son, Jacob, now eighteen years ago. We all knew that there was a baby coming, but in those days you couldn't see what was going on inside. Two days before he was born my doctor said, "This is going to be a large baby. Let's go and have an ultra-sound and see how big he's going to be." So I had an ultra-sound on March 9, 1989. They found a problem. He had fluid around his lungs, so when he was born he wasn't going to be able to breathe properly. To me, that was God revealing to me that there was a problem. If we hadn't known about this difficulty we might have gone to a hospital that wasn't prepared. In this way the doctors were able to notify the hospital and they would be able to handle the situation. The doctor was able to prepare the hospital staff for what would happen when he was born.

I could have looked at this in a different way. I could have been angry and asked God why he did this to my son, but I didn't. I've chosen an attitude of gratitude. Instead I look at it as a miracle that we went for this ultra-sound one day, and this problem was revealed to us. It was God's way of making us aware of what was about to happen. Now Jacob is eighteen years old and going to college! Through the miracle of an ultra-sound God was working to preserve human life.

God reveals proof of his existence every day if we're willing to look for it and recognize it. Sometimes he does it in quiet ways, and sometimes he kind of hits us over the head with it! God does have a sense of humor, too.

I wasn't raised Catholic. I was baptized Lutheran, but we never really went to church regularly. Both my children were baptized in the Catholic faith and then I decided to go through the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). I was confirmed and received first Eucharist in 1994.

"Such is the race that seeks for him, that seeks the face of the God of Jacob." I always felt this desire, even before I was married, to find what faith I would follow. My husband is a cradle Catholic. When we got married we attended the Catholic Church. One day one of my friends told me about a program the church offered where a person could become Catholic, so made the phone call and got signed up! I've been involved with the church ever since then. I've always had the sense that this is where I belonged. I had this desire to do more and I had to become part of the faith in order to do that.

I was a lector soon after coming into the church. After that I was the PREP (Parish Religious Education Program) Secretary. From there I became involved in the Education Commission and the Family Center building committee. I became heavily involved in a very short time, due to the Spirit's urging.

My first class for the Lay Ministry Program was Christology, normally the last class people take. I remember wondering, "What am I doing? What have I done?" But I had the desire to keep going with it. I wanted to learn more and it's a challenge to learn this way. It's a challenge to your faith, too. You have to be strong in your faith to get through those classes. It's perhaps not for everyone, but I feel privileged to have been able to study in that way.

*If you would like more information on the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) process, please contact Elaine Ouellette at:*

[eouellette@stjohndavison.org](mailto:eouellette@stjohndavison.org)

*For more information about the Sienna Heights Lay Ecclesial Minister Program, please contact: Nancy Joseph at 517-342-2512 or*

*Sr. Marilyn Barnett at 517-264-7690 or [mbarnette@siennaheights.edu](mailto:mbarnette@siennaheights.edu)*

*Are you a good listener? Come and be part of our BeFriends Ministry. Contact Laurie Miles by e-mail: [lmiles@stjohndavison.org](mailto:lmiles@stjohndavison.org) or by phone: 810-652-0304, ext. 269.*

*Perhaps you feel called to become a lector or a Eucharistic Minister. More information is available by contacting our parish staff at 653-2377.*

*If you would like to offer your services as a Welcome Desk Assistant, please contact Laurie Miles at the parish Family Center: 652-0304, ext. 269, or e-mail her at [lmiles@stjohndavison.org](mailto:lmiles@stjohndavison.org)*