

Monday, December 21, 2020  
Monday of the Fourth Week of Advent  
*Saint Peter Canisius*

“O Rising Dawn, splendor of eternal Light and Sun of Justice: come and illuminate those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.” (Today’s “O” Antiphon)

Yesterday we heard the Annunciation Gospel. Today, Mary wastes no time, “in haste” to share the news and her life with Elizabeth. She will serve Elizabeth until her child, John the Baptist, is born. As we hear also in the Song of Songs, love stirs in the heart and moves into active service because love is not selfish. Or if the reading chosen for today is from Zephaniah, we hear the joyful shouts and jubilation because God will “renew you in his love.” That has been Mary’s experience and that is the experience of every Christian who “waits for the Lord, who is our help and our shield.”

Today’s saint, a Jesuit from the Netherlands, worked to help heal the division in the Church in the sixteenth century with his writings, especially the catechism he wrote and which was widely received throughout Europe.

God Love You!

*Fr. Jim Starasovich*

"While remaining the Mother of our Judge, Mary is a mother to us, full of mercy. She constitutes our protection. She keeps us close to Christ and she faithfully takes the matter of our salvation into her charge."

*St Peter Canisius*  
*Doctor of the Church*

