



Well, here we are. It is the Fourth Sunday of Advent and we are scratching our heads, wondering where the time went. In Just five days, it will be Christmas. There seems to be so much more to do and so little time in which to do it.

I invite you to fantasize with me for a minute. Just pretend for a moment: what if those final, little things didn't get done? Would the world come to an end? Would you lose your happy home? Would you be fired? Be disowned? Turned in? Reported to the Christmas 'Unfinished-business' Police? Try to imagine: if nothing else (except food!) gets done, how many people would even notice? How many would care? You say, "Well, I would notice!" So-o what? Do you think Baby Jesus would notice? Care? Aha!

Are we remembering what Christmas is really about? We're celebrating God's infinite love for us...the unfolding of His promise in the birth of a baby! Is this the way we celebrate His birthday...by worrying ourselves to death...by spending ourselves into a black hole of debt...by screaming and making everybody around us a nervous wreck? In a matter of six days, Christmas Day will be over. Remember to make time to pray and to thank God for giving us one of the most wonderful days in human history. Remember to understand, and then... to live it!

We will have been very foolish if we have let Madison Avenue, cyber-sales, and other high-tech gimmicks rob us of the peace and joy this holy season is meant to bring into our homes and hearts. We never know when our last Christmas, together, will be. Make this the best one ever. It's not too late. Slow down right now. Take a deep breath. (Say a prayer for the Steelers.) When you get home, maybe even have a glass of wine (or 2) --for me. And remember my Christmas-11th-Commandment:

'CHILL OUT--THE BABE WILL SOON BE HERE!'

Sincerely & in Him, born-in-a-manger, fr.t.

~~~~~  
Calendars are still available in the vestibule.

**P.S.** --Thanx for all the wonderful **AND** generous Christmas cards!  
~~~~~