

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS Monday, November 28, 2016

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

I rejoiced because they said to me, "We will go up to the house of the Lord." (Psalm 122:1-2)

We've all felt it: that thrill of anticipation over an upcoming trip. We've counted the days till we can pack the car, board the plane, or hit the trail. Well, here we are in the first week of Advent, just starting our journey to the Christmas crib. Are you feeling the thrill? Can you say, in the spirit of today's psalm, I rejoiced when the calendar told me "We will go again to Bethlehem"? Whatever your answer, Psalm 122 suggests a way to help you find more joy during this Advent season.

This is a pilgrimage psalm, one of fifteen labeled "Song of Ascents" (Psalms 120–134). Most likely, they were sung by the people of Israel as they trekked to Jerusalem to celebrate the three great yearly festivals. Psalm 122 is sung by one of these pilgrims as he arrives, bursting with joy at finally reaching his destination. Picture him jubilant at the gates, singing Jerusalem's praises. To him, the holy city means protection and community, justice and peace, because it centers on the Temple, "the house of the Lord." He is awed and delighted to be approaching God's presence; he is eager to thank God for his blessings and to pray for peace.

This pilgrim clearly thought about where he was going and why he was going there. What about us? What is our destination, and why are we taking this journey?

Our destination is clear: Jesus. The journey leads to the One who can fill our hearts with joy and gladness. Why are we taking this journey? Because like the psalmist, we too long for God's rest and peace. We are journeying because we know, deep down inside, that only the Lord can give us our hearts' desires.

The marvelous thing about Advent is that we can find joy in the journey as well as in the destination. That's because Jesus is with us every step of the way. He is speaking words of encouragement through the Scriptures; he is showering us with love through our friends and family; he is feeding us and refreshing us in Communion. He is the best traveling companion because he knows the way, and he is committed to bringing you home with him.

"Jesus, give me a spirit of joy as I travel to you."

Today's Announcements:

- First period classes, the student council is sponsoring this year's Christmas door decorating contest.
- The administration and staff would like to congratulate the 2017 Hugh O'Brian recipients: Amelie Million, Isabell Alexander, Stephen Azar, Mary Catherine Kalil, Maddie Moak, and Jamie Stanovich. Congratulations! Ms. Wilkinson needs to see these students after today's announcements.

- We would like to congratulate the girls varsity basketball team on their victory last Monday afternoon against D'Iberville. We won 48-46! Players of the game were Morgan McCrea, Laurie Pisciotta, Mary Beth Tubb, and Lillie Guida. Congratulations girls!
- Congratulations to the sailing team for placing second in the silver fleet at the Great Oaks Regatta. Skippers Mallory Edwards and crew James Edwards - the only brother and sister team.
- There will be a very important robotics meeting today after school in room 202. All members should attend - we will work on the FTC robot following the meeting.
- Tomorrow is a meeting for Science Honor Society in room 202. We will discuss the blood drive detail. Please be there.
- Key Club would like to thank all who donated shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. We collected 103 boxes.
- FCA Disciple Cross orders need to be turned in by December 6 to Coach Dellenger in room 108.