

# ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

## DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS Monday, December 11, 2017

### Today's Prayer and Reflection:

*Here is your God . . . he comes to save you. (Isaiah 35:4)*

What a festive time of the year this is! Who doesn't enjoy planning for special gatherings, wrapping presents, decorating the tree, or singing carols? All because we want to herald the birth of Jesus. We are celebrating the message Isaiah proclaims in today's first reading: "Here is your God . . . he comes to save you" (Isaiah 35:4).

This joyful message of God's saving love came at a bleak moment in the history of his people. The people of Judah had rebelled against the Lord, and they were taken into captivity by the Babylonians. Yet even when they were at their lowest point, God did not abandon them. Rather, he spoke tenderly to them. Listen to what he says in today's reading: "Those whom the Lord has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy" (Isaiah 35:10). God didn't say, "I told you so" or "Well, you're on your own now!" Instead, he promised to save his people.

God is unconditionally devoted to us and continues to pursue us even when we ourselves have made the mess

we're in. He doesn't abandon us; he seeks us out and saves us. That doesn't always mean he will solve all our problems. Oftentimes, he will join us in the mess and help us clear it up.

If you find it hard to relate to the situation of the Jews during the Babylonian captivity, try thinking of Peter. God didn't reject him after he had denied Jesus three times; he gently called Peter to repentance on the seashore and gave him what he needed to lead the disciples. Or think of Thomas. God didn't rebuke him for doubting; he gently drew near to him and answered his doubts, drawing him into deeper faith.

This is the whole message of Christmas: God never walks away from us. Even when we sin, even when we get ourselves into trouble, we hear this joyful proclamation: "Here is your God." He comes to save us by becoming one of us. He is glad to do whatever it takes to rescue us and show us how much he loves us.

*"Jesus, thank you for coming to redeem me: Lord, I rejoice in you!"*

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### Today's Announcements:

- ★ Congratulations to the cast and crew of *Murder's in the Heir* for their outstanding performances. Tech and set are reminded to meet Mrs. Trahan in the theater after school. Thanks to all our parents and students who attended the shows. An email will go out this evening with other details.
- ★ Congratulations to Mrs. Cloud's class for winning the door decorating contest! Donuts will be heading your way this week! Runners up were Mrs. Tavel and Mrs. Williams.

★ Student Council will be ringing the Red Kettle bell during lunches all week. Please contribute any change to this worthy cause.



