

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thursday, January 17, 2019

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

Harden not your hearts as at Meribah. (Psalm 95:8)

Just the mention of the name Meribah was enough to trigger the Israelites' memories. The prophets, the psalms, and even today's reading from Hebrews recall this place, so it must be important. What happened there?

The word meribah means quarrel, and that's what the Israelites had been doing. God had delivered them from Egypt and brought them to safety by parting the Red Sea for them. Now they were wandering in the desert, thirsty. So they grumbled. Their protests grew so strong, in fact, that Moses began to fear for his life. But God answered them. He commanded Moses to strike a rock with his staff, and an abundant supply of water gushed out.

It may seem that the Israelites were being chided for complaining against the Lord, but more was going on than just grumbling. The people began doubting the goodness of the One who had just rescued them. "Is the Lord in our midst or not?" they demanded (Exodus 17:7). They lost sight of what God had already done for them, and that led them to harden their hearts against him.

That's why the psalmist urged the people to recall Meribah: not as a condemnation, but as a remembrance of God's closeness: I was suffering in bondage in Egypt, but the Lord heard my cries and delivered me. I walked on dry ground through the Red Sea. The Lord gave me manna and quail in the desert. Like the pillar of cloud by day and fire at night, these memories could assure the people that God had not abandoned them at all.

We all have times when we start to doubt that God is really with us. It's especially at those times that we need to make the effort to remember how he has already worked in our lives. Do you remember that time when you had just moved into a new area, and a neighbor came to greet you warmly? Or when you felt God's presence as you looked at a new child? Or that time when you were able to forgive something that would have normally upset you?

Remember God's works. Remember his presence. Then, harden not your heart.

"Lord, bring to my mind all the ways you have been with me through the years. I believe you are in my midst."

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Today's Announcements:

- ★ Sign ups for both varsity and junior high track are ongoing - see Coach Dellenger in room 108 if you are interested.
- ★ Make up tennis tryouts will be held on Wednesday, January 23, at Bayou Bluff. They will be from 3:30 to 4:30. Please sign up with Coach Villarrubia in room 217, if you plan on attending make up tryouts.
- ★ The Knights of Columbus at St. Alphonsus is seeking volunteers to help serve food for their annual 50 years of marriage dinner on Sunday, February 10, at 2 pm. If you are interested, please see Mrs. Collier in the front office.

- ★ Let's Celebrate Catholic Schools Week... St. Patrick's first ever Contemporary Christian concert starring Brandon Green will be held Friday, February 1, at 7 pm, tickets are \$10.00 each in advance online or \$20.00 at the door.
- ★ London, Paris and Rome - if you are interested in traveling there with Shannon Collins in the summer of 2020, please come pick up a flyer in the front office for more information.
- ★ The inaugural Saint's Shenanigans Sr. Mary Jo Memorial 5k/Fun Run will take place on Saturday, March 9, at Nativity BVM Elementary. If you are in need of volunteer hours, there will be several activities and things for you to assist with that morning. Please let Mrs. Rosetti know if you are interested in volunteering.