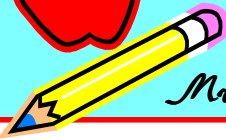




St. John the Baptist Catholic School

4B News

Mr. Nguyen's Classroom Newsletter



St. John the Baptist Catholic School

1021 Baker Street
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

December 6, 2009

Advent Day-by-Day: A Season of Surprises

By: Kathy Coffey

Second Week of Advent

Sunday: Hope, not wrath

For those who lean forward expectantly, desperate for good news, John the Baptist offers hope. We want to join his crusade for straighter paths and a more just world. We yearn for a savior who asks our participation in his magnificent enterprise. We have a role to play here: Contribute to the kingdom. Prepare the way of the Lord. We are part of God's plan to transform ourselves and the earth.



Monday: Desert drama

It's not such a long leap from the desert Isaiah describes to the southwestern U.S. desert. There, hopeful immigrants endure searing heat, debilitating thirst and lost paths through a huge wasteland, seeking a way to support their families. Where is the strength and healing the prophet promises? It comes through the hands of human rights workers who bring them water and medicine. People still need God's gracious highway.

Tuesday: Pausing for comfort

Today's readings should help change images of a punitive God. *Comfort* is the first word, breathed tenderly as a mother leaning over her newborn, then repeated in case we miss the point. Our response? Initially, we may want to simply bask in the contentment of knowing such a God. If our prayer is usually asking for help in difficulty, we should try a happy rest in God, which some name contemplation. Then, strengthened for mission, we do God's work. Naturally, we want to hurry forward, to quickly meet such an empathetic friend. We'll eliminate the detours which drain precious time and energy away from God.

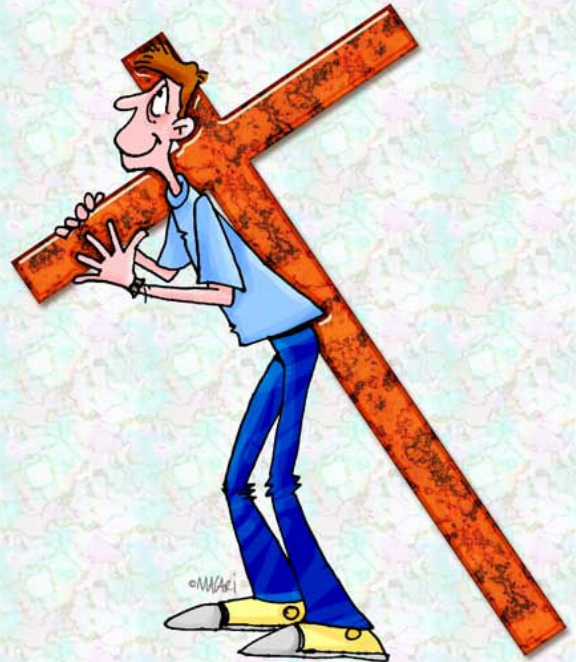
SAIN'TS FUN FACTS

by mario d. macari

"ENOUGH WITH THE PSYCHOBABBLE, THERE IS ONLY ONE PRESCRIPTION FOR HAPPINESS AND IT IS IN TAKING UP OUR OWN CROSS AND FOLLOWING JESUS

"THE HOUR HAS COME FOR EDUCATORS, SOCIOLOGISTS AND CITIZENS TO REVERSE THEIR STEPS, TO SEE THAT IF THE SELF IS TO BE REALLY HAPPY, IT MUST BE DISCIPLINED, PRUNED, DENIED AND NEGATED BY ITSELF. NO BETTER LAW FOR INNER PEACE HAS EVER BEEN GIVEN THAN THAT OF THE DIVINE SAVIOR: 'IF ANY ONE WILL COME AFTER ME, LET HIM TAKE UP HIS CROSS DAILY AND FOLLOW ME'"

-ARCHBISHOP FULTON SHEEN



Upcoming Events

- Tue. 12/8: All School mass 10AM
- Wed. 12/9: Winter Play 7PM in the hall
- Tue. 12/15: Christmas Sweatshirt and Jeans
- Thu. 12/17: Jan. lunch orders due
- Dec. 19 - Jan 10: Christmas break
- Sat. & Sun. Jan. 1-2, '10 & Jan. 9-10, '10
Mater Dei Tournament
- Mon. 1/11: School resumes
- Fri. 1/15: NOON dismissal
- Mon. 1/18: MLK Jr. holiday

Continued on back...

Wednesday: Take heart, take rest
Jesus must have understood how quickly we tire, how soon our burdens become heavy. Looking at a crowd bent over from years of manual labor and oppression, he speaks words that spring from deep compassion. Because he understands our need for rest, he promises it to all, no matter where we work, no matter how fast we tire.

Thursday: Held by the hand
Anyone who's crossed a desert can appreciate the Isaiah reading today. In the vast, barren wilderness, God offers a helping hand. Fountains of water will spring up; trees will flourish. This passage should speak to our dry times and places. Where are we feeling desert-like (paralyzed, depressed or frustrated) now? Where do we need God's life-giving hand?

Friday: Another lens on success
In today's readings God interprets success differently than we do. God offers the ultimate consolation: our names never cut off from God's presence. Have we delighted recently in ordinary blessings: the growth of a child, good health or the satisfaction of a meal? Do we fully appreciate the magnificent creator who abides with us every minute, guarding the smallest details of our days?

Saturday: Totally awesome!
Jesus' disciples ask him about Elijah right after the transfiguration. They are leaving the glorious mountaintop, trudging back to the squalor of cities and an epileptic boy. Jesus brushes aside the question, seeming to say, "Just as Elijah calmed wrath, so you too can learn to deal constructively with anger. He was awesome, but so too are people in your midst, today."

Upcoming Tests

Religion	Advent	Mon 12/16
Reading	Little House Ch. 11	Wed 12/9
Spelling + Vocab		Friday 12/11
Math	Ch. 3, Section C	Tue 12/8
Language	Pronouns	Thu 12/10
Science	Unit A, Ch. 4	Thu 12/17
Social Studies		Check Planner
Spanish, Music, Computer		Check Planner



... to the following students who earned an A+ on the following tests.

Little House in the Big Woods Ch. 10

Kelsey	Katherine	Hope	Marissa G
Alex	Nathaniel	Victoria	Andrew
Charlie	Lia	Maile	Trinity
John-Adrian			

Synonym and Antonym Test

Josh	Kelsey	Mart	Katherine
Jeremy	Kyler	Hope	Alex
Daniel	Charlie	Nathaniel	Andrew
Emily	Julia	Lia	Kayla
Tommy	Maile	Trinity	Bill

Spelling 14

Michael	Lance	Kelsey	Katherine
Kyler	Hope	Jonathan	Marissa G
Daniel	Zachary	Tiffeny	Victoria
Andrew	Emily	Julia	Lia
Kayla	Tommy	Maile	Trinity
Bill			

Vocabulary

Kelsey	Katherine	Jeremy	Marissa G
Hope	Tiffeny	Emily	Julia
Kayla	Tommy	Maile	Trinity
Bill			

Weekly Giggle

A little boy opened the big and old family Bible with fascination, and looked at the old pages as he turned them.

Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible, and he picked it up and looked at it closely. It was an old leaf from a tree that had been pressed in between the pages.

"Momma, look what I found," the boy called out.

"What have you got there, dear?" his mother asked.

With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered: "I think it's Adam's suit!"