



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

October 10, 2010

At the Foot of the Cross

Written by Marcia Krugh Leaser

Fearing the battle was over
And I'd already lost the war,
I was tired of trying and failing.
I just couldn't fight anymore.

So, dragging my battle-scarred body,
I crawled to the foot of the cross.
And I sobbed. 'Oh please, Father forgive me.
But I tried...I tried.. and still lost.'

Then the air grew silent around me.
I heard his voice just as clear as the dawn:
'Oh, My child, though you are tired and weary,
You can't stop, you have to go on.'

At the foot of the Cross , where I met Him,
At the foot of the Cross, where He died,
I felt love, as I knelt in His presence .
I felt hope, as I looked in His eyes.

Then He gathered me lovingly to Him,
As around us God's light clearly shone.
And together we walked though my lifetime
To heal every wound I had known.

I found bits of my dreams, long forgotten ,
And pieces of my life on the floor.
But I watched as He tenderly blessed them,
And my life was worth living once more.

I knew then why I had been losing.
I knew why I had not grown.
At the foot of the Cross came the answer:
I'd been fighting the battle alone .

At the foot of the Cross, where I met Him,
At the foot of the Cross, where He died,
Then I knew I could face any challenge
Together--just my Lord and I.

SAIN'TS FUN FACTS

by mario d. macari

SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS, THE GREAT SPANISH MYSTIC, WAS ONCE A MENTOR TO THE COUNTESS OF FERIA. THE COUNTESS ENTERED THE ORDER OF POOR CLARES, AND BECAME KNOWN AS THE "SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT" FOR HER RELENTLESS AND TIRELESS HOURS BEFORE JESUS. WHEN ASKED WHAT SHE DID AT THOSE TIMES, SHE RESPONDED:

"GOOD LORD! I'M ASKED WHAT I DO IN HIS PRESENCE! WHAT DOES A POOR MAN DO IN THE PRESENCE OF A RICH MAN? WHAT DOES A SICK PERSON DO IN THE PRESENCE OF HIS DOCTOR? WHAT DOES A THIRSTY MAN DO AT THE WELL? WHAT DOES A STARVING PERSON DO BEFORE A TABLE LADEN WITH FOOD? HE IS RICH; HE IS THE PHYSICIAN; HE IS THE FOUNTAIN; HE IS THE BREAD FROM HEAVEN. AND HIS LOVE FOR US IS

SO GREAT THAT HE DIED THAT HE MIGHT DWELL AMONG US. WHY? THAT HE MIGHT ENRICH US, HEAL US, REFRESH AND NOURISH US!"



Upcoming Events

Tue. 10/12: Fr. Norbert's Birthday

Mon. 10/18: Spirit Attire Monday

10/24-10/28: Red Ribbon Days

Fri. 10/29: Saint Attire procession
Grandparents' Day

Mon. 11/1: All Saints Mass 10AM

Tue. 11/2: Spirit Attire Day

Fri. 11/5: No school. Faculty inservice

Sun. 11/7: Daylight Savings Time ends

Wed. 11/10: Picture Make-up Day

The Tale of Jack O'Lantern

A Read-aloud Story from *Catholic Update*

Jack, the Irish say, grew up in a simple village where he earned a reputation for cleverness as well as laziness. He applied his fine intelligence to wiggling out of any work that was asked of him, preferring to lie under a solitary oak endlessly whittling. In order to earn money to spend at the local pub, he looked for an "easy shilling" from gambling, a pastime at which he excelled. In his whole life he never made a single enemy, never made a single friend and never performed a selfless act for anyone.



One Halloween, as it happened, the time came for him to die. When the devil arrived to take his soul, Jack was lazily drinking at the pub and asked permission to finish his ale. The devil agreed, and Jack thought fast. "If you really have any power," he said slyly, "you could transform yourself into a shilling."

The devil snorted at such child's play and instantly changed himself into a shilling. Jack grabbed the coin. He held it tight in his hand, which bore a cross-shaped scar. The power of the cross kept the devil imprisoned there, for everyone knows the devil is powerless when faced with the cross. Jack would not let the devil free until he granted him another year of life. Jack figured that would be plenty of time to repent. The devil left Jack at the pub.

The year rolled around to the next Halloween, but Jack never got around to repenting. Again the devil appeared to claim his soul, and again Jack bargained, this time challenging him to a game of dice, an offer Satan could never resist, but a game that Jack excelled at. The devil threw snake eyes—two ones—and was about to haul him off, but Jack used a pair of dice he himself had whittled. When they landed as two threes, forming the T-shape of a cross, once again the devil was powerless. Jack bargained for more time to repent.

He kept thinking he'd get around to repentance later, at the last possible minute. But the agreed-upon day arrived and death took him by surprise. The devil hadn't showed up and Jack soon found out why not. Before he knew it Jack was in front of the pearly gates. St. Peter shook his head sadly and could not admit him, because in his whole life Jack had never performed a single selfless act. Then Jack presented himself before the gates of hell, but the devil was still seething. Satan refused to have anything to do with him.

"Where can I go?" cried Jack. "How can I see in the darkness?"

The devil tossed a burning coal into a hollow pumpkin and ordered him to wander forever with only the pumpkin to light his path. From that day to this he has been called "Jack o' the Lantern." Sometimes he appears on Halloween!

Congratulations!

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

<i>Religion Beatitudes</i>			
Ethan	Riley	Cade	Alyssa
<i>Math 2A</i>			
Hannah	Bryan	Cade	Alyssa
Roisin	Francine	Izabelle	Michael
Noah	Madeleine	Jason	
<i>Spelling</i>			
Jalen	Emily	Daphne	Alyssa
John	Riley	George	Francine
Izabelle	Bridgette	Alex	Madeleine
Josheph	Charlene	Cade	Cameron
Matthew	Megan	Roisin	Spencer
Hannah	Bryan	Augustin	Ethan

<i>Upcoming Tests</i>		
Religion	The Rosary	Mon. 10/18
Reading	Little House Ch. 4	Wed. 10/13
Spelling + Vocab		Friday 10/15
Math	Ch. 2B	Wed. 10/13
Science	Unit A, Ch. 2	Thu. 10/14
Language	Nouns part 1	Tue. 10/12
	Nouns part 2	Tue. 10/19
Soc. Studies, Spanish, Music, Comp.		Check Planner



Weekly Giggle

When Dad came home he was astonished to see Alec sitting on a horse, writing something. "What on earth are you doing there?" he asked.

"Well, the teacher told us to write an essay on our favorite animal. That's why I'm here and that's why Susie's sitting in the goldfish bowl!"