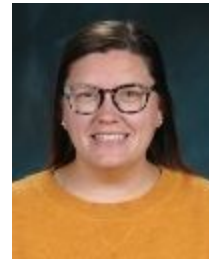




Second Week of Advent
Friday, December 11th, 2020

Mrs. Katie Hilton, English Teacher, shares her reflections on today's Scripture readings.



IS 48:17-19; PS 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6; MT 11:16-19

In today's world, we are constantly seeking fulfillment. We post to social media in pursuit of validation, hoping people think we are good enough. We see ads for hundreds of products a day promising instant happiness if we but purchase them. Often we are disappointed, as this form of fulfillment is fleeting and forces us to keep striving for more. We'll tire quickly of the product we buy, realising it didn't live up to its promise. And the "likes" only trick us into thinking that people behind a screen, sometimes people we don't even know, are what make us worthy.

But today's readings provide us with the true blueprint for happiness. God tells us that if we follow his commandments, our "prosperity will be like a river" and our "vindication like the waves of the sea." Not only that, but those who follow the Lord are blessed and "will have the light of life." Isn't this what we are seeking? Isn't this what we hope for from those social media posts and material things?

The difference? God's love is everlasting.

It seems simple, follow God and you will be happy, but the third reading cautions us that the world isn't always kind to those who have found true happiness. It reminds us that our world is full of judgement. Like John the Baptist and the Son of Man, whether you're eating and drinking (or following God or wearing the right clothes or driving the right car) or not, you're wrong. If this is the case, then we are faced with a choice. Either we can stay true to what we believe in or we can conform to popular opinion. Standing firm in our convictions is never easy and we will struggle along the way. When you find yourself struggling, wanting to fit in, reaching for an immediate reward, look to today's readings as a reminder to refocus on Christ. That struggle reminds us that what we seek is far greater than anything we can find on Earth. And what's more, God promises to see us through any judgement that comes our way as we continually strive for the ultimate reward.

Faith: Lived, Deepend, Celebrated

During these uncertain times, we welcome your prayer requests. The Bishop Chatard community will lift up your prayer intentions in the weekly BCHS Prayer Chain. **Email Mr. Steven Patzke, at spatzke@bishopchatard.org, your prayer intentions or to join the prayer chain.**