

Advent



December 4, 2011

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God.

These very direct words from God and the phrase that follows, "Speak to the heart of Jerusalem," would be enough if they were the only Scriptural words we heard this weekend. They are straightforward and carry such weight.

Speaking through Isaiah to the suffering Hebrew people, God was promising an end to their suffering—even though it was not evident yet—telling them to prepare with joy for God's coming. They were to prepare for a future that was "already but not yet"—it was present through God's promise, but not yet in its fullness.

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God.

Speaking to the heart is essential in giving comfort. My husband and I use a mantra during the Advent season—"Let's be gentle with each other." The holidays bring scheduling conflicts, multiple family commitments, and long to-do lists. When we're stressed, we can wound each other with harsh words, impatience, and thoughtlessness. As we prepare for Christ's birth—an "already, but not yet" experience—we'd all do well to remember comforting, gentle words in our closest relationships.

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God.

Jesus inaugurated the kingdom of God, so it's already here, but not yet in its fullness, which will occur with Jesus' return. Great suffering, brokenness, and grief remain. The best way to live in this already-but-not-yet world is by acting with tender comfort toward all of God's children. We never know how much hurt another is experiencing when we meet them. We *can* be the gentle presence of God—the great Comforter.

**Be gentle
with each
other.**



SHUTTERSTOCK

JANEL ESKER

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Today's Readings

Is 40:1-5, 9-11

2 Pt 3:8-14

Mk 1:1-8

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NOTRE DAME SCHOOL

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"Sixty years of faith filled education."

Principal: Mrs. Terri Haynal

December 4, 2011

2nd Sunday In Advent

THE GRASS WITHERS.
THE FLOWER FADES.
BUT THE WORD
OF THE LORD
STANDS FOREVER.



I S A I A H 4 0 : 8

Sunday Mass Times

Saturday - 7:30 pm

Sunday - 10:00am

Weekday Mass Times

Tuesday & Thursday 12:10pm

Wed. & Fri. - see bulletin

Sacrament of Reconciliation

6:30 - 7:00 pm Saturday or

by appointment.