

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS Wednesday, August 17, 2016

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

I myself will look after and tend my sheep. (Ezekiel 34:11)

What does a good shepherd look like? While we could say many things, perhaps the best place to look is Jesus' parable in today's Gospel. When a vineyard owner goes out into the marketplace in search of workers both in the middle and at the end of the day, he doesn't waste time blaming the people who are standing around idle. Instead, he gives them the benefit of the doubt: they intended to work, but no one had hired them. So he hires them and sends them into his vineyard. Then at the end of the day, he pays everyone—even the late hires—enough to take care of their families for the day.

This is what a good shepherd looks like. The vineyard owner takes seriously his responsibility for the people entrusted to him, and he goes out of his way to care for them. He shows generosity, kindness, and compassion. He goes beyond doing only the minimum that is required and instead lives out in a very practical way Jesus' command to love one another.

Of course, we are not always good shepherds. Like the rulers of Israel whom Ezekiel addresses in the first reading, we may lord it over people by being critical or heavy-handed or by putting our own interests ahead of their needs (Ezekiel 34:4). But don't worry; Jesus knows this about us, and he isn't surprised. He doesn't reject us or condemn us. Neither does he remain aloof. He gives us the opportunity to repent and do better. He himself comes and helps us care for the sheep. He doesn't just tell us what to do; he does the work right alongside us and gives us the grace to become more loving and patient.

Each of us is called to strengthen the weak, to heal the sick, and to seek the lost, just as the vineyard owner did. We are all called to treat everyone in our lives with the same dignity, compassion, and love that Jesus has for us. Thank God that the perfect Good Shepherd is always with us to teach and lead us in this role!

"Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd. Teach me how to care for the people you have entrusted to me."

Today's Announcements:

- Don't forget about Meet the Teacher Night tonight. We will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the gym.
- We will have Mass tomorrow morning - students are reminded to wear blazers and ties tomorrow.
- School pictures will be taken tomorrow morning. We will call students by grade level. Students, remember to have your picture packet order forms and money with you. Make up senior portraits will be taken tomorrow afternoon. Seniors who missed portraits during the summer should have been given an appointment time for tomorrow.
- There will be a Youth Adoration Hour at 6:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at St. Alphonsus starting this Thursday, August 18.

- Students, we are all aware of the floods affecting Louisiana. We have someone going to bring supplies next week. If you are interested in donating any of the the following items, you can bring them to your religion teacher: toiletries, paper towels, cleaning products, plastic gloves, and bottled water.
- The Lady Irish Volleyball team did not bring in the win last night against Bay High, but they played a great game - congratulations!
- There will be an Arts and Crafts Club meeting next Wednesday, August 24, at 3:05 p.m. Juniors and seniors need to see Ms. Cody if you are interested in running for an office.
- The first Drama Guild meeting of the year will be Thursday after school at 3:05 in the auditorium. All students grades 7-12 are welcome. Are you interested in acting, singing, dancing, working backstage? Do you want to learn to work lights or sound, or do you want to build and paint sets? Come to the meeting to find out what's happening in drama this year and let us know you are interested!
- All students interested in becoming a member of Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society are invited to attend a twenty minute meeting on Wednesday, August 17, in room 100. In order to be accepted as a member, students must have a minimum 3.0 math GPA for the previous four semesters of their math curriculum. This honor society is for students in tenth through twelfth grades. If there are any questions, please see Mrs. Tavel.