

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

He humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:8)

The design of the cross is so simple. It's just two lines, but the entire gospel can be found in them. Picture one vertical stroke from God descending and intersecting the horizon of the sky. Right there, in the middle, that's where heaven and earth meet. That's where everything is transformed.

That's just like the power of the cross, isn't it? Its message of self-sacrificing love and mercy is so simple that we can easily apply it to every part of our lives while at the same time none of the world's brightest theologians can fully grasp its mysteries.

We lift up the cross of Christ today because that's where heaven intersected earth. God meant this sign to be for everyone who believes—an all-embracing, universal banner of his love (John 3:16). He longs for the whole world to be united under it. Yet as universal as the cross is, it is also intensely personal. Jesus was crucified there for you. He wants his love to intersect with every strand of your being. He wants you to know that everything, from your head to your heart and all that's in-between, can be touched by heaven.

This sounds so beautiful, but also theoretical. Exactly how can we invite heaven to reach every corner of our lives? For help, remember the Israelites in today's first reading. Life flowed into them when they fixed their eyes on the bronze serpent in the desert. So maybe you could start by lifting up the cross in your imagination. Picture Jesus there, pouring himself out for you and for the whole world. Think about the extraordinary kindness and goodness of God that are displayed there. Keep your gaze fixed upon the cross, and grace will flow into you and soften your heart.

The cross is the greatest sign of Jesus' triumph over sin and death. It tells us that God loves us so much that he was willing to bring heaven down to earth even after we had fallen into sin. So rejoice and celebrate today. Glorify God and thank him for this mighty gift. Tell him that you want to receive his deepest blessing: heaven in your heart!

"Jesus, thank you for the cross. Help me to lift it high in my heart and my mind."

Today's Announcements:

- This week is the last week to sign up for FCA. Members should pay dues and vote for officers with Coach Dellenger in room 108 before or after school.
- Senior baby pictures and quotes for the yearbook are due by this Friday, September 16, to Mrs. Farragut in room 214.

- There will be an Interact Club meeting today at 3:00 p.m. in the auditorium. The officers meeting will immediately follow the regular meeting.
- The library will be closed after fourth period today.
- There will be a mandatory Mu Alpha Theta meeting Thursday after school in Mrs. Tavel's room. Thursday is also the last day to pay your dues to Julia Hancock. She will be in Mrs. Tavel's room Thursday morning before school. Dues are \$15 for sophomores, \$10 for juniors and new seniors, and \$5 for returning seniors.
- The French club will be meeting in Ms. Alexander's room (room 206) directly after school today. We will elect officers at this meeting. Anyone who wishes to run for office or vote must attend and must bring \$5 for dues.
- Students for Life will meet Friday morning at 7:45 am in Ms. Cloud's room. Students for Life is for 9-12 graders and dues are \$5 if you have not paid.