

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS Thursday, October 13, 2016

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

... every spiritual blessing in the heavens. (Ephesians 1:3)

On his thirteenth birthday, a boy opened a large package from his father. Wide-eyed with wonder, he lifted out a fully equipped toolbox. "Wow! Thanks, Dad!" he exclaimed. Then he put it aside and turned to open his next gift.

Fast-forward ten years. That boy, now a young man, has just moved into his first home and discovers several small problems, including a loose doorknob and a leaky sink. "What am I going to do?" he wonders. Although he has lugged the toolbox down to the basement, he has never opened it. He has no idea how to use any of the tools. He never took time to learn by working alongside his father or experimenting with the tools on his own. As a result, some of those once new tools have become rusty from disuse.

St. Paul tells us we are God's adopted sons and daughters. Like the father in the story above, God has given us a fully equipped tool chest. We have the sacraments, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and the fruits of the Spirit. Whether we need to "fix a leak" in our hearts because we haven't been consistent in prayer, "mend a fence" in a relationship, or "build a bridge" between ourselves and a co-worker, our spiritual toolbox has what we need.

It's a good thing God doesn't hand us a toolbox and then leave us on our own to figure everything out. He offers to teach us the craft of holiness, as a mentor would teach an apprentice. He can show us what instrument works best in each situation. We still have a part to play, but as we labor alongside him, we can become more comfortable with his tools. We may make mistakes once in a while, but over time we become more discerning about what to do and how to do it.

So don't let your spiritual toolbox sit on a shelf and gather dust! Open it, and look at what's inside. Take out one tool, and work with it today. The more you use your tools, the more you'll be able to fix not only your own house, but your neighbors' houses as well.

"Father, I want to learn from you. Teach me how to use the tools you've given me."

Today's Announcements:

- We are on liturgy bell schedule today - we will have a rosary, adoration service at 9:40 this morning.
- The theme for tomorrow's pep rally is "Pink Out." Students may dress in accordance with the theme or wear jeans with any St. Patrick t-shirt. Students should follow the requirements of free dress days as outlined in the student handbook: On free dress days, students may wear jeans, capri pants, shorts (knee-length), skirts (knee-length) with an appropriate shirt and any closed-toe shoes. No spaghetti straps or sweat pants, and no torn clothing is allowed.

- If you have any Irish raffle tickets and money with you, please turn it in to Ms Dapremont in the office. Keep selling your tickets! All students who sell ten tickets will receive a free dress day and ice cream party on Tuesday, October 25.
- St. Vincent de Paul School is seeking volunteers on Oct. 22 from 12:30 to 4:30 to assist with their fall festival. Any students who are interested in helping for service hours, please see Ms. Dapremont for more information.
- The library will be closed tomorrow.
- Senior sibling pictures are due to Mrs. Farragut by tomorrow. Senior ad forms, pictures, and money are due by next Friday, October 21.
- Auditions for the fall drama production are tomorrow after school. There is a sign-up sheet outside Ms. Trahan's door.
- If you have registered for youth Legislature, please come to the meeting tomorrow, October 14, after school to learn about the conference procedure. This meeting is mandatory for all participants. If you have any questions, please see Mr. DeSalvo in room 103.
- Good luck to The Lady Irish volleyball team as they travel to Long Beach today. Come out and support your team. The games are at 4:30, 5:30, and 6:30.
- The Nativity Halloween Carnival is this Saturday from 1:00 to 9:00 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering and receiving service hours, please see Ms. Cloud to sign up.