

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

If any man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go and search for the one that is straying? (Matthew 18:12)

You've probably heard the parable of the lost sheep dozens of times, and you've probably spent most of the time comparing yourself or a loved one to that poor, lonely sheep. But what about those ninety-nine that the shepherd left behind? What were they feeling? Were they hungry? Were they frightened? How could the shepherd justify leaving them to go after only one? You might think, "That sounds awfully unfair!"

Of course, we know that this parable is a simple way of explaining an unfathomable truth—God's infinite love for each of us. God never really leaves the ninety-nine that haven't strayed. His eyes are "in every place," and there is nowhere we can go that he cannot find us (Proverbs 15:3; Psalm 139:7). He can love all of us—perfectly and personally—at one and the same time. It doesn't matter whether you are that one sheep that has strayed or one of the ninety-nine faithful; you have his full attention and affection!

This is good news for those of us who are part of the ninety-nine. Jesus isn't watching for our every sin or nervously trying to keep us constantly in step. That's not what a shepherd does. He knows that, like any sheep, we sometimes take a misstep and stumble. He sees our mistakes and sins in the context of our efforts to please him. So he is patient with us as he gently nudges us back on the path.

Your shepherd also sees when you take a good step. He notices your small acts of compassion. He doesn't miss when you hold your tongue or when you bless instead of curse. Small acts like this are bigger to him than we often think, for they affect the entire flock, not just us.

So don't worry about where you are on the spiritual journey. Jesus' eyes are always on you, his presence is always with you, and his grace never stops surrounding you. Just try your best to listen for his voice, and he will lead you home.

"Lord, thank you for keeping watch over me! Help me to live in faith and trust, knowing that you are always at my side."

Today's Announcements:

- Santa Grams are now on sale! Send a special message and Christmas stocking filled with goodies to your friends, family and teachers. The cost is \$3 for one or \$5 for two. See Mrs. Tavel, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Gollott, Ms. Cody, Mrs. Worrel, or any of the four junior class officers to purchase your Santa gram today!
- Quiz Bowl Practice will be held before or after school Wednesday.

- The Knights of Columbus would like to remind everyone that today is the Feast of St. Nicholas. Knights of Columbus student candidates who will be exemplified this Saturday will be presenting "The Man Behind The Story of Christmas" to the senior girls who will explain this process by giving their gift to the younger students throughout the day. We would like to thank the Knights of Columbus for supporting our school.
- The Exemplification Admission Degree into the Knights of Columbus in honor of Bishop Morin will take place on Saturday, December 10, at St. Ann's Parish Hall on Hwy 53 in Lizana beginning at 2:00 p.m.
- FCA members are reminded to have their Disciple Cross order form turned in by 3:00 p.m. Wednesday after school if you want them in by Christmas. If you do not want to give the Disciple Cross for Christmas, you may turn the forms in after Christmas. Also the FCA Christmas toy gift project has been cancelled.
- The French classes will be hosting a French-style Christmas market in the cafeteria during both lunches tomorrow to raise money for their favorite charities. Bring \$2 to buy hot chocolate and sweet treats, support your favorite charity, and celebrate this French cultural tradition with us!
- Softball tryouts have been moved to Wednesday and Thursday due to inclement weather.
- Congratulations to the seventh grade boys basketball team on a hard fought victory last night against West Wortham. All players contributed to a solid team win. Our eighth grade boys ran into an athletic West Wortham squad and fell short of a victory. Coach Hewes is proud of the effort that all the players are putting in so far this season.
- Thanks to all of you who helped this weekend to make our Robotics Regional Tournament such a success. A special thanks to Mrs. Sutherlin who helped with the judging and many other areas of the day. We appreciate all you did and thank you.

We want to congratulate our LEGO mentors whose teams all did a wonderful job in their competitions. We also want to send a huge congratulations to our First Tech Challenge team who was the winning alliance in the FTC Tournament.

Team Tempest was the overall winner, was second place in the INSPIRE award, and third place in the Engineering Notebook category. We also were awarded the Connect trophy which symbolizes the team who is most connected with their school and community in enhancing and emphasizing the future of engineering.