

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

They that hope in the Lord will renew their strength. (Isaiah 40:31)

Every human being has times of discouragement, times when we “faint and grow weary . . . stagger and fall” (Isaiah 40:30). It's easy to identify with Jacob when he says, “My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God” (40:27). It's in times like these that we are most vulnerable to the lies and half-truths of the devil. And so the prophet in today's first reading gives us ammunition against such attacks.

Sometimes our situation seems so hopeless that we are convinced there is nothing God can do for us. But Isaiah reminds us to lift our eyes to the power that God displays as he holds the whole universe together. Nothing is impossible for God!

Sometimes we feel as if God doesn't know what's happening to us. Here, Isaiah reminds us. “His knowledge is beyond scrutiny” (Isaiah 40:28). Not even the smallest detail escapes his notice.

It's tempting to think that God has more important things to worry about than our little lives. But again Isaiah corrects us: “He gives strength to the fainting; for the weak he makes vigor abound” (Isaiah 40:29). This promise also puts an end to the lie that God doesn't care about our struggles or trials.

We may think that we don't deserve God's help and that we may even bear part of the blame. But don't get mired in guilt. God's mercy is always available, even when we don't deserve it. That's the definition of mercy after all! Yes, “he pardons all your iniquities” (Psalm 103:3).

When thoughts like these arise, don't just wish things were better. Christian hope is an active virtue. It urges you to bring your need to the Lord and leave your problem in his capable hands. Then you can expand your heart by praising him for his power, his knowledge, his wisdom, and his unconditional love. Finally, see if there is a step you can take that will help build God's kingdom—some act of service you can do. Isaiah promises that if you do, you'll find your own strength invigorated.

“Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all my being, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. (Psalm 103:1-2)”

Today's Announcements:

- Students, next Wednesday through Friday will be our midterm semester exams. The exam bell schedule is in your handbook and on our website. Friday, December 16 will be a 12:30 dismissal time. To avoid interruptions of students testing, check outs are not permitted during exam periods. Students who are absent and miss an exam must have been granted prior approval in order to make up the exam missed. For more information or to request prior approval, please contact Mr. Buckley.

- We will have mass tomorrow morning - don't forget liturgy dress code.
- 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!
- As we begin to see cooler temperatures, remember the outerwear options as part of the uniform policy. Only uniform jackets and sweaters may be worn to school.
- We would like to congratulate the girls varsity basketball team on their victory last night against Sacred Heart. We won 65 to 33. Players of the game were Morgan McCrea, Anna Claire Colson, Baylee Hodge, and Cassie Swetman. Congratulations girls!
- The French club is hosting a Christmas market in the cafeteria at lunch today. They will be selling coffee, hot chocolate, and baked goods for a dollar each in support of some of their favorite charities. Bring your money to lunch and join with us in celebrating this festive French tradition!
- Pictures for robotics, arts and crafts club, bible study, NHS, and NJHS will be taken tomorrow after mass.
- Students who adopted an angel from the Angel Tree: all unwrapped gifts are due this Friday, December 9, to Mrs. Buckley in room 200.
- This is a reminder that all service hours are due by this Friday. Mr. Creel has one two-hour opportunity left....see him for details.