

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS Thursday, December 8, 2016

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you. (Luke 1:28)

If you could go back in time and pick your own mother or if you could spend generations creating the perfect mother for yourself, what sort of characteristics would you focus on? This may sound like an odd thought, but the late Archbishop Fulton Sheen once wrote about this idea: What type of mother did Jesus plan for himself?

We know that God had carefully set up the lineage of Joseph, the man destined to be Jesus' earthly father. So it's not hard to imagine God spending generations lining up the heritage of the woman who would bear his Son in her womb, imbue him with her DNA, and prepare him for his mission.

As awesome as this truth is, there is even more to God's plan for Mary. He wanted a woman who would be more than just the mother of his Son; he wanted someone whom everyone could look to as their mother. So he mapped out a path, both for her ancestors and for herself, and gave her the gifts she would need to follow that path. As remarkable as all this is, it is just as remarkable that Mary embraced these gifts and said yes to God's plan for her.

Here's how Archbishop Sheen suggests God would have made her: "One who would radiate every virtue, every manner of kindness and charity and loveliness; one who by the purity of her life and her mind and her heart would be an inspiration not only to you but even to your fellow men and women, so that all would look up to her as the very incarnation of what is best in motherhood."

Mary wasn't just an ordinary woman who happened to win a special visit from the angel Gabriel. She was uniquely chosen and meticulously formed for her role even before she was conceived without sin. This is what we celebrate today: the uniqueness of this woman and the yes that she found the courage to say to God over and over again.

Today, let's thank God for giving us such a good and pure mother. Let's follow her example and try our best to say yes to God's plan for our lives.

"Lord, help me remember to turn to Mary whenever I need an example or counsel or support in prayer."

Today's Announcements:

- Today, we are on liturgy bell schedule. We will have mass at 9:40 this morning and are excited to have Fr. Benden on campus today.
- 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.

- 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.
- Coach Dellenger has called in the first order of the Disciple Crosses. FCA members may still receive FCA credit, and can turn in their order forms after the Christmas break.
- Pictures for robotics, arts and crafts club, bible study, NHS, and NJHS will be taken today 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.
- National Honor Society members, please remember your items for the elderly. We need the items as soon as possible.
- Sophomores and juniors, if you are interested in Governor's School, see Ms. Wilkinson as soon as possible.
- To all robotics members: the poinsettias are here and ready for you to pick up. Please take your orders by the end of the day Friday. Service hours are offered for today after school for robotics members or other students who are able to help move some items to the storage unit in the back of campus. This should not take long. Please see . Mrs. Worrel before the end of the day if you can stay.
- The French classes will continue selling desserts in the cafeteria during lunch today. Bring your money to lunch to get a sweet treat and support your favorite charities!