

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS Monday, December 12, 2016

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. (Luke 1:38)

Imagine the president of the United States walking into a local business unannounced. Customers' eyes widen in disbelief, and cameras start flashing as the owner comes forward to shake his hand. It's exciting to be chosen for an encounter with someone important, isn't it? But isn't everybody important?

The story of Mary is one of somebody hidden and lowly being visited by an even more important dignitary—the angel Gabriel. In our day we may honor Mary above all others, including angels, but in her own day, she was just a simple woman in a small village.

By choosing Mary, God sent the message that everyone is precious in his sight, even those who go unnoticed. If a teenaged girl in a Galilean backwater can become the Mother of God, truly “nothing will be impossible” for him (Luke 1:37).

This is a message that Mary carries on today. On this feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, we recall her appearance to a simple peasant named Juan Diego—an appearance that sparked a powerful outpouring of grace throughout the Americas.

By choosing people like Juan Diego, Mary is asking all of us to pay attention to the lowly and the humble. What does it mean to behold the humble? It means looking at the “hidden” people around you as your brothers and sisters. It means seeing the homeless woman on the street corner, the private neighbor down the road, or the quiet kid at school as worthy of your attention. The need is especially urgent during the holiday season, when so many people feel their loneliness more keenly.

Sometimes, you are that hidden person, and that can be a painful feeling. If that's the case, remember how God saw Mary, and loved what he saw. He saw her humility, her holiness, and her readiness to say yes.

He sees you too, and he loves you. In fact, if you stop and think for a moment, you'll be able to see ways that God has given you signs of that love. Remember: God has chosen you to receive his Son. Thank him today, and resolve today to bear that love to other people.

“Father, you have favored me with your gaze of tenderness. Send me to share this gaze with anyone who needs to be lifted up.”

Today's Announcements:

- Students, on 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.

- Seniors, you will receive your exemption letters tomorrow afternoon.
- There will be a meeting today after school in room 202 for all students who will be attending the robotics Disney trip. It will last about fifteen minutes.
- Sophomores and juniors, if you are interested in Governor's School, see Ms. Wilkinson as soon as possible.
- Congratulations to the junior varsity boys basketball team for their 50 to 24 victory over East Central Friday night. Congratulations to the varsity boys basketball team for their 49 to 35 victory over East Central. The teams will host Ocean Springs Tuesday night.
- Come out and support the junior varsity soccer team home game tonight at 5:30 p.m.
- Congratulations to the winners of the door decorating contest: third place, Mrs. Cloud; second place, Mrs. Lawson; first place, Mrs. Worrel. Mrs. Worrel's first period class will receive donuts and milk tomorrow morning - compliments of Student Council.
- Santa Grams will be delivered tomorrow during sixth period. Today is the last day to buy them.