

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, January 10, 2017

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

You have given him rule over the works of your hands. (Psalm 8:7)

Dominion. Rule. Authority. We can all be a little uneasy with these ideas today. The idea of someone having authority over us can seem negative. We love our freedom, and there are too many examples of the way leaders have abused their power. Our uneasiness can extend to how we feel about God, the ultimate authority figure.

But God doesn't dominate or manipulate. That's not how he exercises authority. He rules in love. Yes, he is all-powerful and has the final say over right and wrong, over life and death. But he wants nothing more than for us to be with him forever. His laws are there to lead us on the path toward him, not trap us or condemn us. Authority properly exercised looks more like a loving parent training his child or a caretaker tending to a garden.

Today's psalm tells us that God has given us authority as well. So how are we supposed to exercise it?

First, look within. Your primary zone of authority is over yourself. You can exercise dominion over your eyes by evaluating the things you see according to God's standards: movies, advertising, the people around you, even the created world. You take authority over your ears by taking time to listen respectfully to other people. And you take authority over your thoughts by uprooting the subtle ways you may judge or manipulate another person.

Next, look outward. You have a vocation, a calling in life, that gives you authority in certain relationships. You may be a manager at work or be involved in a ministry in your parish. In all of these roles, God calls you to serve and nurture, not to dominate. Parents strive patiently and lovingly to form their children in holiness. Coworkers and friends set an example of caring cooperation.

In the end, authority is not about being "above" someone else. It's about serving and laying down our lives—just as Jesus has done for us!

"Father, open my eyes to your loving authority. Help me to imitate you in all of my relationships."

Today's Announcements:

- We would like to wish Mr. Hewes a happy birthday today!
- With us seeing cooler temperatures this time of year, we want to remind everyone of the winter outerwear dress code options. We added several winter-wear options last year so it would not be necessary to deviate from our uniform policy on cold days. Teachers, please make sure all of your first period students are in compliance with the uniform policy.

- Juniors and sophomores, we will be hosting two ACT boost seminars on February 10 and April 7 - the day before the February and April ACT tests. This will take place during the school day and is for all juniors and sophomores free of charge. Your parents received an email this morning with more information. We encourage all juniors and sophomores to register for the February and April ACT tests.
- We would like to congratulate our Irish Emeralds Dance Team for their second place finish in jazz and pom routines at the state dance competition.
- French Honor Society is now accepting applications. Applications are based on GPA and are due Wednesday, January 11, to Ms. Alexander in room 206. See Ms. Alexander to learn about eligibility for the society and pick up an application.
- To all those who signed up to participate in boys golf, there will be a brief, informational meeting in Mr. Hewes' classroom (room 105) this Wednesday after school to discuss upcoming tryouts. If you signed up to tryout, be sure to be at the meeting or speak with Coach Hewes beforehand.
- Any active Key Club member who would like to vote for next year's officers may come by before or after school tomorrow (Wednesday) to Mrs. Sutherlin's room to cast a ballot.
- The library is having a "clean slate" week. Overdue books returned this week only will have all fines waived. Existing fines will be reduced to half price. See Ms. Ladner for more information.
- Track signups for junior high and varsity track teams are going on all this week. See Coach Dellenger to sign up.
- We will have a letterman jacket/sweater fitting tomorrow during lunch. No money will be due at the time of the fitting. This is for all students who have completed two years in a varsity sport. Coach Burger will have a list present if you are unsure if you are eligible.