

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS Wednesday, January 11, 2017

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

He first loved us. (1 John 4:19)

If you've ever followed an instruction manual, you know how it works. After you complete step one, you proceed to step two, and then three, and eventually—if you're a little savvy—you move to the final step of complete assembly. Now what would happen if, as you are attempting to put something together, you realize that the order of the steps in your manual is all jumbled up? You can imagine the mess you would have on your hands!

John here gives us an instruction manual, of sorts, to help us understand something about love. We love because he first loved us. . . . Whoever loves God must also love his brother (1 John 4:19, 21). Let's say that the last step here—the finished product—is loving others. What do you think would be the first step, according to John's manual?

If you said, "God loves us," you got it right!

Here's the key to the whole manual: as we follow Jesus' command to love one another, we need to make sure we are in touch with God's love for us. If you aren't receiving it yourself, you will surely have a difficult time giving it away!

This love manual makes sense. It describes a pattern of receiving God's love, loving God in return, and then pouring that love out to others. It sounds easy and intuitive enough, doesn't it? But our own experience might show patterns where we need to stick more closely to John's prescription. For instance, maybe there are people you have decided to love, but loving them is more frustrating than you thought it would be, and you don't know if you have anything left to give. If you ever find yourself in such a situation, it's worth asking whether you have accidentally jumbled up the order. This is why the manual can be so important.

One of the best ways to find God's love is to meditate on it in prayer. Sit before a crucifix, and ponder the fact that Jesus gave up his life for you. Or gaze into the night sky and think about the God who created such grandeur and yet knows you intimately and calls you his own child. Let his love saturate your heart, and you will find the strength to love.

"Father, fill me up with your love!"

Today's Announcements:

- 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.

- French Honor Society is now accepting applications. Applications are based on GPA and are due today 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) today 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.
- 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 today 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.
- Today is Mrs. Farragut's Birthday. Please remember her in your prayers today while she is away.
- Key Club members, please vote in Mrs. Sutherlin's room immediately after school. Today is the last day to vote for next year's officers.
- We would like to congratulate the girls varsity basketball team on their victory last night against Collins. We won 48-47. Players of the game were Morgan McCrea, Lillie Guida, Laurie Pisciotta, and Mary Beth Tubb.

We would also like to congratulate Morgan McCrea on being nominated for the McDonald's All-American team. Only five girls on the Mississippi Gulf coast were nominated. Congratulations Morgan!

- All students interested in participating in the spring musical should attend the meeting after school Thursday in Mrs. Trahan's room. It will last about thirty minutes. Auditions will be rescheduled. Attendance at this meeting will determine what type of cast members are available for the parts.