

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS Thursday, January 12, 2017

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

A leper came to him and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." (Mark 1:40)

Let's look at this healing story from three different dimensions: the spiritual dimension, the dimension of the soul, and the physical dimension. The physical dimension is the most obvious. We see a leper kneeling and Jesus stretching out his hand to touch the man. And we're amazed to see skin regenerate and new flesh appear on once-brittle bones.

But operating just beneath this physical dimension is the realm of our soul—our thoughts and emotions. Because leprosy was thought to be contagious, this man had to be separated from his family and society. He lost his job and his loved ones. Emotionally, he must have felt desperate and hopeless. As for Jesus, his heart is wrenched with pity and compassion. He affectionately answers, "Be made clean" (Mark 1:41). The man's body is healed, but just as important, his soul is healed. He can go home!

As for the spiritual dimension, Christians have always found in this story an allegory of the leprosy of sin that deadens our spirits—and of Jesus who redeems us. With a clean bill of health, this man can rejoin the worshipping synagogue. He has been restored to God!

You, too, are an incredibly multifaceted creation, and God considers each dimension important. He cares for them all, and he wants to touch you on every level.

One of the best places this can happen is at Mass. That is where, more than any other place, you can connect to Jesus.

Think about how your body experiences the Mass. You receive Jesus' presence as you "take and eat" the Eucharist. You kneel, you make the Sign of the Cross, you recite the creed, and you sing hymns. Your soul benefits when the Scriptures are proclaimed because your mind engages with the word of God. Finally, the Eucharist has the power to awaken your spirit and bring you closer to Jesus.

Every time you go to Mass—indeed, every time you celebrate any other sacrament—imagine yourself as the man in today's Gospel. Imagine Jesus touching every part of you and bringing it to life!

"Lord, thank you for stretching out your hand to touch me."

Today's Announcements:

- Today, we are on the liturgy bell schedule and will celebrate mass at 9:40 this morning.
- Congratulations to next year's Key Club officers: president, Chloe Rizk; vice president, Emily Fontan; secretary/treasurer, Mary Katherine Filipich. Please meet with Mrs. Sutherlin immediately after school today.

- Any students who are interested in running distance in track, Coach McDaniel will be having a distance runner tryout this Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. at the track. For questions or more information, please see Coach Dellenger.
- We would like to congratulate the eighth grade girls basketball team on their victory last night against West Worthem. We won 23 to 21 as Quinlan Pisciotta hit two free throws with 1.8 seconds left to give us the victory. Players of the game were Quinlan Pisciotta, Jasmine Stawarski, Emily Nolte, Jessica Harrison and Ali Ware! Congratulations, girls!
- Any eligible student who would like to order a letterman jacket, sweater, or patches, please bring your order form and payment in full on Wednesday, January 18, at lunch. Payment can be made by cash, check, debit/credit card, or money order. Extra packets available in Coach Burger's office. Please make checks payable to Balfour!
- All students interested in participating in the spring musical should attend the meeting after school Today 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.
- Our junior high basketball teams will compete today at Pearl River Central. We want to wish them good luck and all the best.