

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS Thursday, January 19, 2017

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

A large number of people came to him. (Mark 3:8)

Jesus has been involved in a whirlwind of activity since his baptism. He has preached repentance in preparation for the coming of God's kingdom. He has called disciples to follow him. He has spent hours in private prayer. He has cast out demons and healed a man with leprosy and a man who couldn't walk. He has answered criticism from religious legalists. Everywhere he goes, people are crowding around him, eager to touch him, to hear what he has to say, to experience miracles.

All of these crowds must have been overwhelming at times. And so in today's Gospel, Jesus takes the practical step of getting into a boat where he can be heard by many eager people without being trampled by them.

But despite the reality of these hordes of people, it's important to see that Jesus never related to a "crowd." He always had eyes and ears and a heart for each individual in front of him. He didn't wave his hand over the crowd to perform a mass healing. He reached out and touched one leper. He forgave one sinner. He answered one question. He was completely focused on whoever was standing before him at the time. No wonder he was tired at the end of the day!

Of course Jesus loves the whole world. He gave his all, everything he was and had, to save us. The sins of all humanity were laid upon him on the cross, and he brought our human nature to the fullness of resurrected life. But for all the "universality" of his work, he still wants to touch each and every person individually. He always takes the time to touch every wounded soul, to heal every broken heart, and to fill every man, woman, and child with his love.

Jesus cares about everyone, both together and individually. Every day, he reaches out to touch and save one person. And another. And another. And you. It doesn't matter whether he finds you in the midst of a large group or all by yourself in a quiet place. He will find you—especially if you seek him.

"Jesus, thank you for knowing me and loving me so completely. I lift my face to you. Come and touch me to the very core of my being."

Today's Announcements:

- Today, we will follow the liturgy bell schedule and will celebrate mass at 9:40 this morning. We are excited to have Fr. Benden on campus today.
- Applications for the National English Honor Society are now available in Mrs. Buckley's room. Membership is open for any sophomores to seniors who currently have a 3.0 GPA overall and in English. The list of current members is posted on Mrs. Buckley's door. Applications are due on Tuesday, January 24.

- There will be a March for Life meeting for parents and participants this evening at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium. It is very important that all who are attending March for Life attend this meeting.
- Students for life who signed up for chalk day please meet in south courtyard today at 3:05 p.m.
- All seventh through eleventh grade soccer players must stop by Mrs. Williams room today immediately after school.
- Attention all senior soccer players, all senior bios must be turned into Mrs. Williams no later than today.
- Julia Bruffey will be collecting junior class dues Friday after school.
- There will be a junior high Science Olympiad meeting Friday morning at 7:45 a.m. in room 215.
- After mass today, the French Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society will take pictures in the courtyard (weather permitting).