

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday, January 30, 2017

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

Did you ever play the game of "telephone" when you were growing up? It's rather simple: The first person hears a message, which he then passes on to the next, and so on down the line.

Usually the message is fairly complicated, and as it passes from person to person, the details get confused. Often by the time it makes its way to the last one in line, it's hardly the same message anymore! This can be a great game—but it's also an excellent way to teach children good listening skills.

Mark 4:24 reminds us, "He was saying to them, "Take care what you listen to. By your standard of measure it will be measured to you; and more will be given you besides." In this passage, Jesus is teaching about a different kind of listening. When he says, "take care what you hear," he doesn't mean getting every word he says exactly right. Even the writers of the gospels, as consistent as they were, didn't tell their stories the same way. What Jesus means is that we need to hear with our hearts as well as our ears. We hear God's word every Sunday, year after year, but for it to bear fruit, we need to receive it on the inside. We need to listen with our hearts!

So how can we improve our listening skills? Like a farmer preparing his fields for planting, our first step is to clear the ground. We need to get rid of any attachments, attitudes, and distractions that could hinder God's word from taking root in us. The next step is a very active one: Once God's word has found a home in us, we have to give out what we've received. In other words, we've got to put feet on our ears!

There's no question that God wants to do great things in your life. Through his word, he may have inspired you to evangelize, to serve the poor, to pray for the sick, or simply to love those closest to you. However you have heard him call you, don't let it go! Ask him to set you free from anything that might keep you from doing his will. When you take that first step and respond in faith, you'll find the next step much easier—and the next!

"Lord, give me ears open to hearing you and a heart willing to serve you. Let your word do its work in me, and make me always faithful to your inspirations!"

Today's Announcements:

- It's Catholic Schools Week! Catholic schools offer academic excellence and faith-filled education for students nationwide. National test scores, high school graduation rates, college attendance and other data show that Catholic schools frequently outperform schools in both the public and private sectors.

As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week, our theme for this week is "Go Light Your World!" Our St. Patrick Catholic High School community is invited this week to not only think about the power of "light" but to be light to others. Light is beautiful and mysterious—like God. Jesus is our light! St. John begins his Gospel with "the true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world" (John 1:9). In the Nicene Creed, we call Jesus "Light from Light."

Our greatest celebration, the Easter Vigil, opens by lighting a paschal candle from new fire and proclaiming Christ as the light of the world.

- National Honor Society members, if you ordered a t-shirt, please see Ms. Wilkinson during lunch or after school.
- National English Honor Society meeting is today after school in Mrs. Buckley's room. New member dues are \$10.
- We wish a huge congratulations to the varsity boys soccer team for defeating St. Joseph this Saturday. They are headed to South State this Tuesday here at St. Patrick at 6:00 p.m.
- The varsity boys basketball team had a dominating performance Friday night with a 60 to 41 victory over Perry Central. The team played a great game and will travel to Seminary tomorrow night.
- Varsity track practice starts today for those not in a winter sport. Be ready at 3:20 at the south end of the stadium - conditioning period and placement of events will be this week.
- We would like to congratulate the girls varsity basketball team on their victory Friday night against Perry Central. We won 63 to 37. Players of the game were Lillie Guida, Laurie Pisciotta, Anna Clare Colson, and Morgan McCrea. Congratulations, girls!
- Tennis practice begins today at 4:00 p.m. at Bayou Bluff.