

# ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

## DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS Monday, February 20, 2017

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### Today's Prayer and Reflection:

*I do believe, help my unbelief! (Mark 9:24)*

Let's do some basic chemistry. We know that a water molecule is made out of two elements: hydrogen and oxygen. Both elements must be present for water to exist. If either is missing, it wouldn't be water.

In a similar way, intercessory prayer has two essential components: proclaiming our faith and crying out to the Lord. And that's exactly what today's Gospel reading shows us.

Imagine yourself standing in the middle of today's scene. A man is imploring Jesus to heal his son, and Jesus replies by telling him, "Everything is possible to one who has faith" (Mark 9:23). This is when the man utters one of the shortest prayers in the whole Bible: "I do believe, help my unbelief!" In just a few words, he has perfectly encapsulated both of the necessary components of prayer.

First, he says, "I do believe" (Mark 9:24). Perhaps he has heard stories about Jesus' healing power or life-giving words. With the confidence of a new and growing faith, he decides to bring his son to Jesus. He hopes that the confidence he is beginning to feel will be rewarded by a miracle.

But next, he says, "Help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24). As confident as he is, the man also realizes his weakness. Maybe his new faith isn't all that strong yet; maybe he has some doubts that Jesus can heal his son—especially since the disciples couldn't do it. But it doesn't matter. He is not ashamed to cry out to Jesus, and he acknowledges his need in honesty and humility.

Today, make sure that your prayer of intercession is just as complete as this man's. Tell Jesus you believe. Take the Nicene Creed or the Apostle's Creed, and proclaim each tenet of the faith with all the conviction you can muster. Or take today's psalm and read it aloud, proclaiming your trust in the Lord. Then, ask Jesus to help your unbelief. Bring him your struggles; if a family member is suffering, ask Jesus to help you believe that he is with them. Or if you worry that you can't witness to your faith, ask him to remind you of the ways he has worked through you in the past.

Keep these two components together, and you'll feel God's presence wash over you like cool, clear water.

*"I believe, Lord! Help my unbelief."*

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### Today's Announcements:

- Students, if you have registration packets, make sure to bring them to the front office. This week is the first registration benchmark, so be sure to get your packets in as soon as possible.
- Congratulations to the high school and junior high Science Olympiad teams. Both teams won first place overall for our district. Please congratulate them as they roll full steam ahead to state competition in March!

- Student Council is sponsoring a Chick-fil-A spirit night tomorrow evening 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. in D'Iberville. Please come out and support!
- This is the last week to donate to Pennies for Patients! The top three classes for the second week in a row are: Williams, Hedman, and Cloud. If our school raises over \$2700, the top two classes will both receive a free lunch from Olive Garden. Let's do our part in battling blood cancers!
- National English Society new member dues/senior cord dues should be paid by the end of February to Mrs. Buckley.
- There will be a National Honor Society meeting on Wednesday at 7:45 in the auditorium.
- We would like to congratulate the girls varsity basketball team on their victory Friday night in the district basketball tournament. We won 58-37. Voted to the All-District team were Anna Clare Colson, and Baylee Hodge. Lillie Guida received honorable mention all District. Morgan McCrea was voted most outstanding offensive player in the District. We will play St. Andrews tonight at 7:00 p.m. in the state playoffs. Congratulations, girls!
- Varsity track practice will be held today. Junior high practice is optional today.