

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS Wednesday, February 22, 2017

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

Who do you say that I am? (Matthew 16:15)

Have you ever faced a big exam in school and found yourself caught in an ever-increasing cycle of worry and anxiety? "If I fail this, I'll fail the course. If I fail the course, I won't graduate. If I don't graduate, I won't get a good job . . ." and so on. Looking back now, you probably realize that one isolated event did not determine your entire future. That dreaded exam was one in a series of stepping-stones along the path.

We can look at this moment in Peter's life as a stepping-stone too. We celebrate this feast in part because Peter gave the right answer to Jesus' question. He recognized Jesus as the Messiah, and that became the foundation of both his own faith and his role as leader of the Church. But this was just one step in Peter's growth into his calling. He had other opportunities to answer this question in words and in actions—and he didn't always get it right. In fact, immediately after today's story, he rebuked Jesus for saying he would go to Jerusalem to suffer (Matthew 16:23). And just after the Last Supper, he denied three times that he even knew Jesus (26:69-74).

These mistakes were also steps on Peter's journey to becoming the leader we honor today. And that's the point. Jesus didn't ask this question merely to get a correct answer. He knew better than to think that Peter had everything down pat. He understood that his faith would grow over time, through "right" and "wrong" answers, just as our faith does.

Throughout our lives, we will be asked who we say Jesus is: as we struggle through sickness or loss, as we welcome a new baby or sibling, or as we pray during Eucharistic adoration. Each situation can help build our foundation, making us more confident. The more we tell Jesus we trust him, by words and by deeds, the surer our steps will become. And if we fall, he will help us back up and smile as we reaffirm our faith.

God wants each of us to keep moving forward. So take a step today, and see where it leads you.

"Lord, I trust you. Help me to say yes to you each step along the path of my life."

Today's Announcements:

- This is the last week to donate to Pennies for Patients! 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.
- The St. Patrick Lady Irish Golf Team will now have practice on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday each week.

- All Students: Please remember your gift card for the students at William Carey University. Give your cards to your religion teachers.
- Juniors, Remember to check the website for information on Girls' and Boys' State. Girls, you must see Ms. Wilkinson for an application packet.
- We would like to congratulate the boys basketball team for the completion of a successful season. The Irish fell to #1 ranked Morton last night. Jack Magandy and Tucker Santiago were recognized for Division 8 3A all Division Team and T.K.Strobridge was voted most valuable offensive player in Division 8. 3A.