

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart. (Joel 2:12)

Now: it's an urgent word, a word that doesn't allow for delay. It's a word that promises immediate fulfillment. You can feel it when the prophet Joel called God's people to return. You can see it in St. Paul's ardent plea: "Now is a very acceptable time" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

Both Paul and Joel are saying the same thing: God is always eager to pour out his grace. He's always ready to bless us. This is the first thing we need to know as we begin these forty days of Lent.

But if God is always eager, why do we need a season like Lent? Because while it's always now to God, it isn't always so for us. We need the structure of seasons like Lent to get our attention. We need the reminder to simplify our schedules and look to God more intensely. We need the call to increased prayer or fasting to shake up our routines and make us more eager for him.

So set these forty days aside as a retreat. If you've struggled with prayer in the past, don't worry; today—now—can be a fresh start. Give God ten minutes each day. If you can't do that, what about eight? This can be your chance to retreat from pressing concerns and make yourself available to God. Open your heart to him as you read each day's Scripture passage. Try to sense what God might be saying to you.

For each bit of time you give to God, you will discover that you are able to trust him a little more. For each bit of time you spend praying with his word, you'll notice your heart feeling a little lighter. You'll find yourself smiling more, no matter what life throws at you.

Don't doubt that God is pouring out his grace this Lent. Receive it. Every day. Now is your time!

"Lord, thank you for giving me the season of Lent. Renew my enthusiasm and anticipation as I turn to you each day. Draw me closer!"

Today's Announcements:

- We will follow the pep-rally/special event bell schedule today. Our Ash Wednesday service will take place this afternoon beginning at 2:20. We are excited to have Fr. Greg on campus with us today. Upon receiving ashes at this afternoon's service, students will depart campus in silent reflection.
- The interact club will be collecting Mardi Gras beads starting today. The collection will take place from March 1 to March 8. This will help fund the Bethel Free Health Clinic. The first period class with the most beads collected will win a king cake.

- There will be a Junior Youth Legislature informational meeting tomorrow at 3:05 p.m. in room 103. The Mississippi Junior Youth Assembly will take place from March 30 to April 1 this year. This is a model legislative session for seventh, eighth, and ninth grade students to participate in a mock legislative session.
- Students who plan on attending the FRC competition at Bayou Regional in New Orleans on March 23, 24, and 25 must also see Mrs. Worrel by the end of the day today. Even if you are considering attending this competition, it is important that you stop by today to room 202.
- Students who will be attending the Ole Miss FTC robotics competition this weekend to stop by and see Mrs. Worrel today.
- Track season starts this week with our varsity team traveling to Long Beach on Thursday. The junior high track meet is at St. Stanislaus on Saturday.
- Boys Golf Team will practice today at the Grand Bear until 5:00. If it is raining or too wet, you will meet in Coach Hewes's room until 4:30. Thursday's schedule and plans are the same as today's.
- There will be a high school dance in the cafeteria on March 11 from 7pm to 9pm. The theme is glow in the dark, and admission is \$5. If you are bringing an out-of-school date, make sure to pick up a form from the front office and return it by Thursday. The form may be downloaded from the "Student Life" page of the website. Late forms will not be accepted.
- Friday will be the last day Mrs. Buckley will accept new member dues and senior cord money for National English Honor Society.
- Student Council will announce the winner for Pennies for Patients as well as our grand total by this Friday. We are currently finishing the counting of those classrooms who took the "pennies" part of the service literally!