

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thursday, March 2, 2017

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

The Lord, your God, will bless you in the land you are entering to occupy. (Deuteronomy 30:16)

What is it to be alive? Here's how Welsh poet Waldo Williams answered this age-old question: to truly live is to find ourselves dwelling in "a spacious hall between narrow walls." Sometimes the walls of life are narrower than we might like. Perhaps we haven't had all the opportunities we wanted. Maybe we are constrained by a lack of resources or time, or circumstances have gotten in the way.

So within the limits of these "narrow walls" each of us has been given, how can we still live in a "spacious hall"? Williams the poet and Moses the prophet agree: it's not about overcoming restrictions to find material prosperity or success or even fulfillment. It's about being grateful, humble, and faithful. It's about finding contentment in small blessings.

Think of the choice Moses places before the Israelites. The Promised Land, which they are about to enter, is clearly defined; they cannot extend its borders to make it a richer, more powerful country. But if they choose to love God and follow his commands, they will experience their new land as a blessed place. On the other hand, should they cross the Jordan dreaming of what other gods could offer them, ingratitude will gnaw away at their satisfaction with what God has given them.

For the next six weeks, you will "inhabit" the land of Lent. You may find the walls narrow as you give up some of your time and preferences. So reflect on your expectations. How confident are you that you will be blessed here? In the weeks to come, when your initial enthusiasm turns to weariness or hunger, how will you ensure that you recognize God's gentle hand protecting you, guiding you, and cultivating your growth?

You might consider keeping a written list each day of reasons to be thankful. Or agree to meet a friend regularly to share your gratitude. Paying attention to God's goodness will ignite your appreciation and love for him.

"Lord, help me pay less attention to the narrow walls around me, and more attention to how you will enlarge the hall of my life and fill it with blessing!"

Today's Announcements:

- The Interact Club continues to collect Mardi Gras beads. The collection will take place until 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.
- 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.

- The varsity track meet will be held today at Long Beach. Dismissal is for 2:50 today - team members should “quickly” change and load the bus in front of the school. The bus needs to leave by 3:00 p.m. Junior high will have practice today with Coach Letort. The junior high meet will be Saturday at St. Stanislaus.
- Any junior who applied to the MSU Rural Medical Program needs to see Ms. Wilkinson today.
- NHS Members: Please start bringing your items for St. Jude.
- Seniors, it is imperative that you check the website for scholarship deadlines.
- 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.
- The following students were recognized at the Regional VI Science and Engineering Fair on February 24.
 - Junior High
 - 2nd Place: Isabel Leatherman - Robotics and Intelligent Design
 - 2nd Place: Shea Sigworth - Engineering
 - 5th Place: Olivia Leatherman - Engineering
 - 6th Place: Madalyn Smith - Medicine and Health; Madalyn also won the Office of Naval Research award from the Navy and Marine Corps for Excellence in Science Fair.
 - High School
 - 1st Place: Olivia Allen - Organic Chemistry
 - 1st Place: Britton Tatum - Animal Science
 - 2nd Place: Mary Agnes - Mestayer Behavioral and Social Science (Team)
 - 2nd Place :Skye Ward - Behavioral and Social Science (Team)
 - 2nd Place: Sam Hewes - Behavioral and Social Science (Individual); Sam was also awarded the Biophysics Award for Excellence in Scientific Research.