

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

Queen Esther, seized with mortal anguish, had recourse to the Lord. (Esther C:12)

Where do you turn when you are feeling anxious? Often, it's a cup of coffee or an invigorating run. But what about when the cause of anxiety is more serious—when a loved one's health or happiness is at risk or when national unrest disturbs your peace of mind? Quick fixes aren't usually enough then. So what can we do in times like these? Let's see if Queen Esther has anything to teach us.

At the moment when we enter Esther's story, she is at her lowest low. Not only has she been taken away from her family and forced to join the king's harem, but now her people, the Jews, are about to be systematically killed.

In the midst of this darkness, Esther turns to God in prayer. So far so good. We all know how to do that. But look closely at Esther's prayer, and you'll find something both unusual and inspiring. Rather than letting her needs tumble out in desperate rapid succession, she begins by recalling who God is: "God of Abraham, God of Isaac, and God of Jacob." She doesn't blame, she doesn't complain, she doesn't accuse God of abandoning her people. She simply proclaims her faith in God's goodness. Then she says, "Help me" (Esther C:14).

Esther's first move was a declaration of faith. Her second move was to ask God to guide her. Only then did she take action and try to save her people. Through this sequence of events, Esther put herself in a position of humility and trust. She opened herself to the wisdom and courage that come from God rather than relying on her own wit and strength. And God answered her.

You can turn to God in the same way today. When you find yourself in a challenging situation, resist the pull to spring into action. First, sing God's greatness in your heart. Today's Responsorial Psalm is "Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me." Use today's Responsorial Psalm to help you. Then, ask him for his help, and do whatever you think is right. Each time you do this, you are telling God that you trust him and that you need his help. With an attitude like that, you are sure to hear his voice—and see his power at work!

"Jesus, in all things, I turn to you. Help me to trust in your power and rely on your wisdom."

Today's Announcements:

- Today, we will be on liturgy schedule. We will celebrate Mass at 9:40 this morning.
- The Blessing of the Fleet and Shrimp Festival will take place June 2 - 4. Applications for Shrimp Queen are at the front desk - the deadline is April 1.
- There will be a high school dance in the cafeteria on March 11 from 7pm to 9pm. Today is the deadline for out of school guest request forms to be submitted.

- Mu Alpha Theta members have a meeting after school today in room 100. It will not take but about ten minutes once everyone arrives and we call roll.
- Sophomores and Juniors: If you were accepted to Governor's School, please see Ms. Wilkinson today.
- The library will be closed today due to a Professional Development meeting.
- The winner of the king cake in the Mardi Gras beads contest is Ms. Lawson's first period class, who donated five large boxes and several bags of beads. Thanks to all who brought in the beads to help fund the Bethel Free Health Clinic. In total, we collected thousands of beads.
- Seniors: If you attended Governor's School, Boys' State, Girls' State, or APEX the summer of 2016, please see Ms. Wilkinson today. Also, please continue to check the website for available scholarships.
- Any girls who want to play volleyball next year should meet with Mrs. Trahan in her classroom Friday morning at 7:45. This year's senior players are also asked to attend. Tryouts and camps will be discussed.
- Today, St. Patrick will be hosting the second invitational junior high track and field meet. Field events start at 4:10 p.m., with the running to begin around 5:30 p.m. Your student ID will admit you for free at the gate. Varsity track members are asked to help with field events.