

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS Wednesday, March 15, 2017

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life. (Matthew 20:28)

James and John were loyal followers of Jesus. They probably would have done anything he asked. But in a sense they were also clueless about what he was really up to. Their request to sit beside him in heaven shows how their values were still influenced by the world around them, where prestige ruled the day. Their intentions were good, but they still had a lot to learn about what it meant to serve God.

It wasn't only James and John, however, who had this problem. The other disciples were angry at them, probably because they also wanted seats of honor. But Jesus didn't condemn any of them. Instead, he took the opportunity to teach them about the nature of his kingdom: whoever wants to follow him must forget about being important in the eyes of the world. The one who wants to be great must learn to be the least.

Every year at Lent, we have the opportunity to learn the same lesson. It's a chance to refocus our gaze on Christ and to sharpen our resolve to live no longer for ourselves but for him. We may come into this season a bit like James and John, wanting to get closer to God and meaning well, but still needing to learn the way of the cross. It's not bad to want to sit next to Jesus. But if we want to reign with him, we first need to learn how to "die" with him by embracing his life of trust and obedience to the Father.

At its heart, Lent is not just about fasting, saying extra prayers, or doing a host of good deeds. These are only the means to the greater end, which is coming into a deeper relationship with Jesus. Jesus fixed his eyes on the cross, and he invites us to do the same. He knows that as we do, untold blessings will flow into our lives: a sense of joy; peace in times of stress; freedom from sins; and best of all, intimacy with God. Who could have ever thought that so much good could come out of a call to serve?

"Lord, thank you for your cross! Give me the heart of a servant, always ready to do your will."

Today's Announcements:

- Congratulations to the following students for winning the Voice of Democracy Essay Contest:
 - First place, Zach Wagner
 - Second place, Andrew Champagne

- Congratulations of the following students for winning the Patriot's Pen Essay Contest:
 - First place, Gabriella Quintana
 - Second place, Jonathan Galle
 - Third place, Anna Le Tran, Hayden McKay

- Seniors and Juniors, it's time! You are now able to purchase your prom tickets. Prom will be held April 1 at the Great Southern Club. Individual tickets will be \$45 and couples tickets \$85. You will need to decide on your meal of choice when you purchase your ticket. See Mrs. Tavel after school in her room to purchase tickets.

Juniors, if you still have outstanding balances on your class dues, those will need to be paid prior to being able to purchase your prom tickets.

- Congratulations to our Lady Irish softball team for their 23-0 defeat over West Marion last night. Raven Blackwell, Raylen Blackwell, Marissa Hanley, and Sarah D'Aquila each contributed with a home run.