

# ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

## DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thursday, March 16, 2017

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### Today's Prayer and Reflection:

*Lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus. (Luke 16:20)*

Jesus' parable of the rich man and Lazarus shows us how much God cares for the poor of this world. It's a moving story, but what does it have to do with us?

In its social teachings, the Church tells us that God's covenant with Israel depended on how his people treated the poor and unprotected—the widow, the orphan, and the stranger. They were not to separate their religious practices from their relationship to the least among them. And neither are we.

The United States Bishops' pastoral letter, *Economic Justice for All*, tells us that "as followers of Christ, we are challenged to make a fundamental 'option for the poor'—to speak for the voiceless, to defend the defenseless, to assess lifestyles, policies, and social institutions in terms of their impact on the poor" (16).

There's no getting around it. God wants us to work together to improve the situation of society's weakest members. In the end, the moral strength of any community will be measured by how we have treated our most vulnerable citizens, not by how we ourselves have fared.

This preferential option for the poor asks us to put the needs of those who struggle ahead of our own. It asks us to guard against growing more comfortable while millions continue to live in grinding poverty. It calls us to ask what we can do to alleviate the suffering of those who lack the basic necessities of food, shelter, education, and health care. But it's not just a series of demands. There is also the confidence that we can help bring justice to the world. We are more powerful than we think!

What might all of this mean for your life? Perhaps you could think about how you spend your money and your free time. Why not make the effort to take your family to serve the poor or the homeless together? Why not give away some of those extra clothes and blankets that have been piling up in your closets? If all of us could do just one small thing to help people who are in need, this world would look a lot more like heaven!

*"Jesus, gather the poor and needy into your protective arms. Help me to treat them as I would treat you."*

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### Today's Announcements:

- 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.

- Seniors, please check the website for scholarship deadlines. The Ann Wesson Scholarship is due Monday. Please see Ms. Wilkinson if you have any questions.
- Congratulations to J.R. Riojas who was selected to receive the 2017 Billy Michal Student Leadership Award and to attend the 2017 American Spirit Awards at The National World War II Museum in New Orleans.
- All of the students who won patriots pen and voice of democracy will take a picture after school today, please meet in the middle courtyard.
- We'd like to wish the Boys Junior Varsity Golf Team good luck as they take on Gulfport High in their match after school today.
- We would like to wish Mr. E. a Happy Birthday today!