

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thursday, September 14, 2017

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

God so loved the world. (John 3:16)

Think about how messy volcanoes are when they erupt. Smoke and ash darken the sky for miles. Molten lava engulfs the mountainside, bringing down mighty forests, threatening villages, and forging new paths.

As destructive as a volcano is, however, it is also immensely creative. Surging lava flows into the sea and creates new islands as the seawater cools and hardens it. The ash falling from the sky fertilizes these islands, bringing forth new vegetation in record time. The entire landscape is reshaped as God once again shows his ability to bring forth new life out of the messiness of violence and death.

What an appropriate way to think about today's feast! September 14 was originally celebrated as the day that St. Helena, mother of the Roman emperor Constantine, discovered the true cross of Christ during a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. But over time, this day has evolved into a celebration not just of the finding of the cross, but of the victory that Jesus won when he was exalted, or lifted up, on that cross. And so it was given its new name: The

Exaltation of the Cross.

This is a day of commemoration and celebration. It's called a "feast day" for a reason.

Rejoice that death has been upended by the power unleashed on Mount Calvary.

Rejoice in the blood that flowed from the cross—blood that destroys strongholds of sin and forges new paths of hope for you to walk.

Rejoice in the new land—the kingdom of heaven—that has become the sturdy foundation for your life.

More than anything else, rejoice because God loves you so much that, rather than condemn you, he sent his Son to save you.

Life is messy sometimes—even as messy as a volcanic eruption. Even God makes things messy on occasion. But he always brings about life. How can we not rejoice?

"Jesus, I rejoice in the triumph of your cross!"

Today's Announcements:

- We will follow the liturgy bell schedule today. We will join together to celebrate mass at 9:40 this morning. We are excited to have Fr. Greg on campus this morning.
- Homecoming dance tickets are on sale in the front office and on the website for \$20 each. See Mrs. Collier. High school students who plan to attend the Homecoming Dance and would like to request permission to bring an outside date must submit the form by tomorrow. Forms may be picked up at the front desk from Mrs. Collier or downloaded from the "Student Life" page of the school website. Approval will not be granted for forms not submitted by Friday.

- High school students (grades 9-12) will vote for Homecoming Queen and King this week. Ballots have been sent to your St. Patrick email address, so be sure to vote this week.
- Attention Juniors, this is a reminder about attending the short meeting after school today in the auditorium. Please come so that you can hear important information about the events for this year.
- Students, you may pay your cafeteria balances to Mrs. Collier at the front desk. All account balances should be kept below \$25. Starting next Monday, students with account balances greater than \$25 will not be able to continue charging.
- National Junior Honor Society invitations have been handed out. National Junior Honor Society is based on grades - students should have a minimum 3.0 GPA. Those interested should have their application packet returned to Mrs. Mays by 3:30 p.m. this Friday. If you are in eighth or ninth grade and feel that you should have gotten an invitation letter to join and didn't please see Mrs. Mays in room 205 as soon as possible.
- Want to have fun for a good cause this weekend? This Sunday, September 17, come out to Banana's Mini Golf and Arcade for an all-day fundraiser for Hope Broadus. Seventy-five percent of the proceeds will go to help the Broadus family pay for medical and travel expenses. If you have any questions, or if you would like a flyer with more information, please see Elizabeth Van Horn.
- The Senior Boys in the homecoming court need to be fitted for their tuxedos on Friday morning between 7:45 and 8 am. see Mrs. Whiteside in the front office. All court members are reminded to email their biography sheets to Mrs. Trahan by tomorrow.
- At yesterday's Tri-meet against St. Stanislaus/OLA and D'Iberville High School, both girls' and boys' teams came in second to SSC/OLA and ahead of DHS. Noteworthy swims on the boy's team included Christian and Jack McKee going first and second in the 50 Freestyle, Vincent Pisciotta improving 20 seconds in the 200 IM, and Jordan Walker improving 21 seconds in the 100 Freestyle. On the girl's team, Gavriella Persing dropped seven seconds in her 100 Freestyle and Lauren Skinner dropped another 4 seconds this week in the 500 Freestyle for a pr. Our next swim meet is at Gulfport on September 27. Go Irish!
- Students who have purchased a St. Patrick car tag may wear jeans with their St. Patrick spirit shirt tomorrow. Teachers, we will send an updated list to you tomorrow morning.
- Today, we will have our lockdown drill. Teachers, please review the lockdown procedures with your students this morning.