

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friday, October 13, 2017

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

I shall return to my home from which I came. (Luke 11:24)

We have all experienced it: the frustration of a besetting sin or a difficult relationship dynamic that keeps popping up. Just when we think we've got it licked, a stronger temptation arises, or an upsetting conversation occurs. We suddenly feel as though we're right back where we started. It's no accident. That's just the way the devil works.

Do we need any more proof that the devil never takes a vacation? Satan is relentless. He never stops harassing us and trying to trip us up. He never stops trying to return to his old homes: the weak spots in our character, our habits of sin, the hurts caused by broken relationships.

That's why Jesus cautions us against settling for just being "swept clean and put in order" (Luke 11:25). Yes, baptism washes us clean of original sin, and Confession cleans us up again after we have sinned. But what about the time in between confessions? As relentless as the devil is, he will always be looking for openings to come back and harass us. He will always be alert for a new opportunity to tempt us and draw us away from the Lord.

This is why St. Peter urges us to be "vigilant" (1 Peter 5:8). He knows that our enemy, the devil, "is prowling around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour" (5:8). How can we be vigilant? By paying attention to the thoughts that arise in our hearts. If anything leads us to become judgmental, resentful, or lustful, we can be sure it's coming from our enemy.

So how do we deal with these devilish tactics? By following St. Paul's example and taking up "the armor of God," especially the "shield" of faith and the "sword" of God's word in Scripture (Ephesians 6:11, 16, 17).

All this talk of the devil can seem frightening, but we can take heart. God hasn't left us defenseless. He has given us all the tools and all the armor we need to guard the "home" of our hearts.

The devil never takes a vacation, so don't make yourself an easy target.

*"Father, set me free and strengthen me by your grace.
Help me to be vigilant against the wiles of the devil.
Lord, I place my life in your hands."*

Today's Announcements:

- We would like to wish Abigail Badurak and Connor Galle a Happy Birthday today! Also, Madeline Bellman will be celebrating her birthday this weekend.
- We are on the liturgy bell schedule this morning. We will have our adoration/rosary service at 9:40 this morning. We will honor the 100th Anniversary of the last appearance of Our Lady of Fatima to the three shepherd children. Pope Francis has granted a Plenary Indulgence (remission of all temporal punishment for sin) for those who venerate a statue of Our Lady of Fatima today and fulfill the normal requirements for a Plenary Indulgence. You may obtain the indulgence for yourself or for a deceased family member who may be in purgatory. We will have

a hand-carved statue of Our Lady that came from Portugal. It was blessed by St. Pope John Paul II and contains relics from the tree Mary stood over and pieces of the coffins of St. Jacinta and St. Francisco.

- Report cards - first quarter report cards will be issued during sixth period today.
- Student volunteers are needed this weekend to help with the St. James Fall Festival. Sign-up sheets are at Mrs. Collier's desk in the front office. This is a great opportunity to complete your service hours. Mr. Creel and the Religion Department are offering class incentives for those who volunteer this Saturday or Sunday.
- Tomorrow is Nativity's Halloween Carnival. Help is needed Friday afternoon for setup and during the carnival Saturday from 1:00 to 9:00 p.m. If you are planning to work the carnival for community service, please sign in at the ticket booth to receive a voucher for a free drink and dinner plate. See Ms. Cloud for more details.
- Senior sibling pictures and senior quotes are due TODAY. Seniors, please turn in your sibling pictures to Savannah Croal and your senior quote to Anna Katherine Fore.
- Drama guild students need to make sure they are signed up to work the Nativity Haunted house on Saturday. The "haunting" runs from 4-9. There are a number of time slots available. See Mrs. Trahan today.
- The following clubs will take pictures today after Adoration/Rosary service: NJHS, Mu Alpha Theta, FCA, and English Honor Society.
- Auditions for the fall drama production are being moved to Monday and Tuesday afternoon of next week. See Mrs. Trahan if you have any questions or conflicts.
- Attention all people interested in being in SADD Club. Today is the last day to turn in your \$5 dues to Mrs. Williams in room 118.

Congratulations to our 2017-2018 officers:

- President: Chloe Rizk
- VP: Kaitlin Cox
- Secretary: Madison Cox
- Treasurer: Anna Broadus
- Sargent at Arms: Payton Mattina

There will be an officer meeting Monday before school at 7:45 in Mrs. Williams room

- Congratulations to the JH football team for their victory over the Purvis Tornadoes last night. The JH football team has now won 16 games in a row and completed their second consecutive undefeated season. Go Irish!