

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday, October 11, 2017

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

... *not to mention the many cattle.* (Jonah 4:11)

Doesn't this read more like the punchline of a joke than a verse from the Bible? Here God is, explaining to Jonah why he had compassion on the people of Nineveh, and his argument hinges on ... cows?

What makes something funny? Reversed expectations. Irony. Unforeseen twists. The Book of Jonah has all of them. It's no mistake: the humor is there to get our attention, to help us reexamine how we think about compassion and God's mercy.

Look at some examples: the title character is a prophet. He is supposed to be especially close to God, and yet he blatantly disobeys God's command and does the exact opposite of what God asks. He actually thinks he can hide from God by running away!

Jonah is rescued when he jumps into the sea. How? A giant fish swallows him—and he's a grown man! Not only that, but after three days in this unconventional watercraft, Jonah is saved when the fish vomits him back up on land!

And what about the cattle? They have to fast, just like

the citizens of the city. Imagine the poor cattle herders trying to put sackcloth on their cows!

These examples might make us chuckle, but they also prompt us to think: Can we really run from God? Does a tyrant like the king of Nineveh deserve forgiveness? Does God really take care of all his creation, even when it rebels against him?

In the end, Jonah teaches us that compassion rises above and beyond judgment and anger any day of the week. Reconciliation is better than retribution. God is patient and merciful even toward the most "unforgivable."

If these ideas seem difficult to embrace, you're in good company. Look at the way Jonah pouts! But God patiently reminds him, as well as us, that he loves all things that are and loathes nothing that he has made (Wisdom 11:24). Just think: even the cattle of Nineveh are so valuable to him that he spares them. How much more precious, then, is each human being made in his image and likeness. How much more are we all worthy of mercy and forgiveness.

"Father, help me to laugh at the ways my ideas fall short of yours. Teach me your compassion."

Today's Announcements:

- Happy Birthday to Logan Petersen and Micah Webb today!
- Attention all people interested in being a member of SADD club. Dues are due by this Friday to Mrs. Williams in room 118.

- Student volunteers are really 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.
- Saad Healthcare will be on campus Thursday, October 19, at 3:00 p.m. to administer the annual flu and pneumonia shots. Students may get a flu shot only and their adult family members may get a pneumonia and flu shot. Those who are interested should complete the consent form and return to Nurse Cathy by Wednesday, October 18. The cost is \$25 for flu shots and \$90 for pneumonia shots. Checks may be made payable to Saad Healthcare.
- NJHS will take be taking up dues during 1st and 2nd lunch tomorrow due to our schedule change today. Dues are \$15 and must be paid by all members by Wednesday October 18. Also there will be a mandatory NJHS meeting for all members in Mrs. Mays room (205) Wednesday 10/18 at 7:45 am.
- Science Olympiad... our first meeting is this Fri., at 7:45 room 215. If you applied, both Junior High and High School, please come.
- Congratulations to your Lady Irish volleyball team on their win last night against Diberville! Mary Tubb had 4 aces and 12 kills, Raven Gonsoulin had 3 aces and 8 assists, Sydney Biggs had 5 aces and 4 kills, Hallie Ladner had 4 aces, 4 kills, and 3 blocks, Carly Loftis had 2 aces and 2 kills, Makenzie Stenum had 5 aces and 6 kills, Hope Williams had 1 block and 6 assists, and Adesyn Hall had 4 digs. Your lady irish take on Long Beach, in Long Beach, in their final match of the season tomorrow night. Good luck and great job lady Irish!
- Today is the last day to turn in Science Honor Society applications to Ms Lawson. They will not be accepted after today.

Congratulations to the following Science Honor Society officers:

- Presidents: Lauren Skinner and Makayla Pfarrer
 - Vice-President: Richard Springer
 - Secretary: Raven Gonsoulin
 - Treasurer: Amelie Million
- Auditions for the fall production are being moved to Monday and Tuesday afternoon of next week. See Mrs. Trahan if you have any questions or conflicts.
 - FCA - those who still want to sign up should see Sydney Biggs, our FCA Treasurer. Those who missed today's meeting should see Coach Dellenger this week.