

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS Monday, December 04, 2017

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

They shall beat their swords into plowshares. (Isaiah 2:4)

Sparks fly with each strike of the hammer. Heat billows from the furnace. The sound of metal against metal clangs in the air. A blacksmith, applying the tools of his trade, takes a sword and slowly, painstakingly reshapes it into a plow blade.

Is this what Advent looks like to you? It's the image Isaiah used when he prophesied about the coming Messiah. He described a kingdom where swords were no longer necessary. Instead, these obsolete tools of war and instruments of death would be turned into instruments of life and peace.

This is how God asks us to prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas; it's what Advent is all about. We all have swords in our lives, "tools" that we use to hurt one another. Maybe we have a short temper. We might be moody and hold grudges, or maybe we're quick to insult or condemn. The Lord wants to take those biting words and teach us how to speak with compassion and understanding. He wants to take our anger and re-form it into mercy. He wants to help us take steps toward making peace in our relationships.

This image of swords turning into plowshares is one way to explain exactly why Jesus became man—to turn us from the destruction of sin so that each of us can become a tool for peace. This is what the Messianic Age looks like—an age when people are more concerned about building each other up than tearing them down.

Experience tells us that this beating of swords into plowshares doesn't happen automatically. We need to cooperate with the divine Blacksmith. We need to surrender our swords to him so that he can help us reshape them. That's why the Sacrament of Reconciliation is so vital.

So take the time to examine your conscience before Christmas. Don't be afraid to look for those swords, the ways you have injured yourself or the people around you. Then go to Confession. God is ready to forgive, heal, and strengthen you. He is ready to make you an expert in the art of peace, not war. He can take every act of repentance, every bit of time spent in prayer, every sacrifice or act of generosity, and fill it with his grace.

"Father, thank you for this season of Advent. Lord, I surrender my swords to you."

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Today's Announcements:

- Happy Birthday to Sarah Gatlin today!
- Tickets are now available for our Fall Production, "Murder's in the Heir." This is a dinner theater, so you need to purchase tickets in advance. See any cast or crew member or Mrs. Trahan in room 204.

- Seniors, midterm exemption notices will be sent to your school email account on December 13. To be eligible to be exempt, you must have an A, no more than 5 tardies total, no more than 5 unexcused absences, no more than 5 detentions, and no ISS or OSS. Also, you must have all cafeteria balances paid. See Mr. Buckley if you have any questions.
- There will be an FCA Chapter meeting tomorrow at 7:45 a.m. in the auditorium. Also, FCA Members are reminded of the Christmas Project - toys are due by December 12.
- The Interact Club Children's Shelter Christmas party has been moved to next Saturday, December 16.
- The Irish varsity boys basketball team had a big win over Vancleave Friday night with a 63-48 victory. Jay Parker had 23 points and 7 rebounds, and Tucker Santiago had 20 points and 5 assists to lead the team. Windfield Swetman, Logan Young, Will Lavers, and Jacob Salminen played well for the Irish. The team will travel to Hattiesburg Tuesday evening to battle Sacred Heart at 7:00 p.m.

The JV boys basketball team battled hard but lost by a 39-35 score. Jordan Bell, Michael Moeller, and Dylan Fontan all played well for the Irish.

