

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

The tottering gird on strength. (1 Samuel 2:4)

Today's first reading and psalm give us before and after snapshots of Hannah that can help us understand how dramatically God changed her heart—she went from weeping bitterly to joyfully proclaiming God's faithfulness. But what happened in between? Hannah tells us herself: "The tottering [unstable] gird on [are clothed in] strength"—strength from God (1 Samuel 2:4).

"That's easy for Hannah to say," we might think. "God answered her prayer." It's true: God gave Hannah a son after years of childlessness. But look carefully, and you'll see that Hannah changed before she conceived Samuel. After a few words from Eli, Hannah's despair began to lift, and she could eat and drink again. The next morning, she returned to worship with her husband, free from grief. God had girded her with his strength even while she waited for the answer to her prayer.

What a hopeful image for us! We all have times of "tottering," when our faith feels weak. But just as with Hannah, God stands ready to strengthen us and steady us with his peace. All he asks is that we lean on him and let him fill us with his grace. Perhaps Hannah can show us the

way.

First, Hannah persevered. Year after barren year, she went with her husband to offer sacrifice and beg the Lord for a child. Like Hannah, we can persevere in seeking the Lord and his strength—even when we question whether anything will come of it. We can believe that his grace is girding us, even when we don't feel it.

Second, Hannah was honest with God. She didn't bury her anxiety and put on a pious show. She poured out her complaint and admitted her unhappiness. What does this teach us? Just like Hannah, we can feel free to tell God exactly how we are feeling. He won't be surprised or put off. He sees it all anyway! He may not always grant our requests, but he will always give us his peace. And God's peace will give us the strength to trust him, even in our challenges.

So bring Jesus your concerns, your doubts, and your fears. Persevere, and be honest with him. Let him tell you what Eli told Hannah: "Go in peace" (1 Samuel 1:17).

"Jesus, I need your strength today. Come, and fill me with your peace."

Reprinted with permission of *The Word Among Us*, 7115 Guilford Dr #100, Frederick, MD 21704, wau.org, 1-800-775-9673

Today's Announcements:

- ★ Happy Birthday to Blake Bratton today!
- ★ There will be a meeting this Thursday at 6:00 pm for March for Life participants attending with St. Patrick and your parents. We will meet in the auditorium. This meeting is important and will provide final details about the trip. Please make plans to attend with your parent.

- ★ Congratulations to the junior high girls soccer team for their win over North Woolmarket last night by a score of 6 to 1.
- ★ We would like to congratulate the eighth grade girls basketball team on their victory last night against Resurrection. Final score was 25 to 4. Players of the game were Ijia Henderson, Caty Otero, Megan Marie, and Olivia Owens. Congratulations, girls!
- ★ The second annual Diocese of Biloxi Walk for Life is scheduled for this Sunday, January 14, at the Cathedral. The event will begin with a rosary rally at 1:00 followed by mass at 1:30 celebrated by Bishop Kihneman. The Walk for Life will take place after mass from the Cathedral to the Biloxi Lighthouse.
- ★ There is a Drama Guild meeting today after school in the auditorium until 3:30. Topics of discussion are the selection, actor availability, and a possible change in date. Seniors, if you plan to participate, you need to attend the meeting or see Mrs. Trahan in room 204.
- ★ The school's literary and arts magazine, *Aisling*, has announced the theme for the upcoming issue. This month's theme for *Aisling* is "New Beginnings." Think of a time in your life where you had to start over or there was a big change. We are at the start of a new year, so try incorporating your New Year's Resolution or your new sense of self into your art. You can go many ways with this topic so dream big and most importantly be creative! Also, there are some open positions on the staff, so if you are interested in being part of the team, please see Mr. Hewes or Mackenzie Rodrigue. These positions are open to all students.
- ★ Congratulations to the eighth grade boys basketball team for their 44 to 29 victory last night over Resurrection. Nick Krass led all scorers with 15 points, Kaleb Chatman added 11 points, and Blake Gollott chipped in 10 points en route to remaining undefeated in 2018.
- ★ Coach Dellenger will have both junior high and varsity track signs ups for the next two weeks during lunch.
- ★ Junior high baseball tryouts will be held this Friday after school from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Students should have a pair of cleats, tennis shoes, and glove. If you would like more information, see Coach Burger.