

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friday, January 5, 2018

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

We should love one another. (1 John 3:11)

Nobody said following Christ would be easy. Thoughts of self-denial, of carrying the cross, even of martyrdom come to mind. Such grand sacrifices, though, begin with the commission John gives in today's first reading: love one another. Love the people around you. Hold them dear, even when they push you away. Be devoted to their welfare, even if they seem indifferent to yours. Hope and pray for their healing, just as you do for your own.

Not so easy, is it? Christian author C. S. Lewis likens it to beginning the study of mathematics with basic addition and not calculus. Start by forgiving your spouse, parents, or children for something they have said or done in the last week: for dishes left unwashed in the sink (again) perhaps or the car's gas tank left on empty, for phone calls unmade or unreturned, or for being left having to walk the dog in the rain.

Everyday life offers us many opportunities to love one another in small, concrete ways, "in deed and truth," as

John wrote (1 John 3:18). To love and not resent, to serve and not crave revenge—this kind of loving requires the death of something inside ourselves. "The feeling of resentment, the desire for payback, must be simply killed," says Lewis. "It is hard work, but the attempt is not impossible."

Feelings can be stubborn, but God will help you. He will give you everything you need to love your family as he has loved you. When anger or bitterness rises up within you, stop and do your best to halt those thoughts. Ask Jesus for the grace to think thoughts of love for that person, and then take one small step to treat them with kindness. You may discover, over time, that you actually are becoming more loving. It doesn't happen all at once, but it does happen. Gradually. Unnoticed. Deep down in your heart. Resolve today to give no place to negativity, and God's grace will abound.

"Holy Spirit, give me the gift of fortitude today so that I can fight the good fight of faith. Give me grace to love other people as Jesus loved me."

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 Kaitlyn Cox, Madison Cox, and Ms. Ladner today!
- ★ First semester report cards will be distributed this afternoon during sixth period.
- ★ On Monday, we will be back to regular uniform dress code with uniform outerwear.
- ★ New NHS Members- There is a meeting on Monday morning at 8:00 in the auditorium. Inductions will be Wednesday, January 10th at 2 p.m. This meeting is mandatory for NHS Officers: Please see Ms. Wilkinson as soon as possible.

- ★ Ms. Cloud needs sweatshirt sizes for March for Life participants. Please see her today if you have not already give her your size.
- ★ Quiz bowl practice will be Tuesday, January 9, instead of Wednesday.