

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friday, February 16, 2018

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

This, rather, is the fasting that I wish. (Isaiah 58:6)

“What are you doing for Lent?” It’s a question you’ve probably been asked more than once this week. Many of us will answer with something like, “I’m giving up desserts—or chocolate or cokes—and going to Stations of the Cross on Fridays.” And we should. Giving up things for Lent helps us refocus our attention on the Lord. But there’s another side to fasting that has to do with the way we relate to the people around us. Today’s first reading shows us what this can look like.

In the reading, Isaiah makes it clear that the fasting God wants is to see yokes untied, bread shared with the hungry, and the homeless sheltered. He doesn’t want us to turn our back on anyone. How is this kind of social awareness linked to fasting? Because denying ourselves something simple like dessert can help us become less attached to our own comfort and pleasure. And that kind of detachment can open our eyes to the needs of other people. It can also bring

us to the point where we can put aside our comfort for the sake of reaching out to our brothers and sisters in need.

But there’s more to fasting than giving up sweets. We can also fast from what we want to do. We can fast from those things we think we have a right to. That kind of fast can free us up to join a group that makes sandwiches and gives them out to the hungry in a local park. Or if we give up our right to keep extra clothing, we could clear out our closet and send some good clothes—not just the old or outgrown ones—to people in need.

God is inviting you to learn more of his ways during Lent. So yes, deny your normal appetites and press in to know him more. Go without some treat or spend more time in prayer. But also extend yourself toward other people. Let the Lord use your fasting to free you up to serve. Your Lenten fast will start to find its expression in concrete, everyday actions that touch people around you.

“Father, help me to fast the way you want me to. Help me to bring your love to the people around me.”

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Today's Announcements:

- ★ Happy Birthday to Christina Parry and Hope Williams today! Madelyn Creel, Quinlan Pisciotta, and Vincent Pisciotta will be celebrating their birthdays this weekend!
- ★ We want to wish our eighth grade students all the best during their spiritual retreat today.
- ★ This Nativity Youth Ministry with Fr. Colten are taking a group youth from the Biloxi Diocese to Stubenville, Atlanta, this summer on July 6-8, 2018. Students who are currently in grades 8-12 are invited to attend. Check your student email for a flier and more information. There are 48 youth seats available on the bus. We will fill on a first come, first serve basis according to payment of the non-refundable deposit.

- ★ The French Club will be doing a bead drive to donate Mardi Gras beads to the Gulf Coast Industry bead recycling department. Please bring your beads to Ms. Alexander's classroom. We will collect beads from Monday through Friday!

- ★ There are still seats available for the Notre Dame Vision summer trip with the Diocese of Biloxi. Applications can be found on the youth page through the Biloxi Diocese website. Applications and \$100 deposits can be submitted to Ms. Cloud. Checks should be made out to the Diocese of Biloxi. This trip is open to 9th-12th graders.

- ★ The Balfour representative will be back on campus during lunch next Wednesday, February 21, to collect any remaining balances on letterman jackets and sweater orders.