

# ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

## DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, March 6, 2018

---

### Today's Prayer and Reflection:

*As many as seven times? (Matthew 18:21)*

Peter thought he was being quite generous. Forgiving someone seven times sure does seem like a lot, doesn't it? The truth is, forgiving repeated offenses goes against our nature. Just look at Jesus' parable of the unmerciful servant. He had just been forgiven a debt he could never repay, and even in the afterglow of such generosity, he couldn't find it in himself to forgive a fellow servant a mere pittance.

Jesus knows our weakness. He is not surprised by all the times we forget what he has done for us and fail to show mercy to others. But he asks us to show mercy anyway.

The truth is, mercy doesn't come naturally to us. We have to work at it. Just as a small child has to be encouraged over and over again to turn off the light when he leaves a room, we have to keep trying again and again until forgiveness becomes a habit. We know Jesus has given us this commandment, and we even know why we should do it. But that doesn't make it any easier. All we can do is practice.

But here's the good news: practicing mercy will break us—in a good way. It will set us free from our habit of holding on to annoyances, hurts, and resentments. The good thing about practicing something is that we get better at it over time. So what if you don't feel that emotion of gratitude to the Lord that makes it easy to forgive? Don't let that stop you. Don't use it as an excuse for not forgiving. Maybe you're not there yet; maybe forgiving from the heart seems beyond your ability. Maybe all you can say is this: "Lord, I'm willing for you to make me willing." Keep trying, and you will make progress.

Today you will have many opportunities to practice forgiveness. Go ahead and do it. Make the decision to let go of all the reasons you feel you shouldn't have to forgive. With each step you take, forgiveness will heal both you and the person you forgive. Remember: practice makes perfect!

*"Jesus, I know that I have far to go. Change my heart. Open my eyes to see each chance I have to practice forgiveness today."*

Reprinted with permission of *The Word Among Us*, 7115 Guilford Dr #100, Frederick, MD 21704, [wau.org](http://wau.org), 1-800-775-9673

---

### Today's Announcements:

- ★ Happy Birthday to Christopher Guthrie and Makayla Marchioni today!
- ★ Registration is now open for the 2018-2019 school year. Parents may register students online.
- ★ Want to do some good during Lent this season? Pennies for Patients began yesterday! This service fundraiser helps to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, who uses all of our donations to help fund research and to help families who are suffering from blood cancers. We will be collecting money in your fourth period classes this year because the class with the largest donation will win a pasta lunch courtesy of Olive Garden. The service project will continue for the next three weeks, and student council will update you on the top

three classrooms every week until we announce the winner. We raised over \$3,000 last year, so our goal is to beat last year's donations!

- ★ During the Mock Trial Competition in Jackson on March 2nd and 3rd, SPCHS had the following winners:

Round 1:

Best Attorney: Jacob Fennell

Best Witness: Hayden Miller

Round 2:

Best Attorney: Jacob Fennell

Best Witness: Max Grill

Round 3:

Best Attorney: Jacob Fennell

Best Witness: Matthew Bisner

Round 4:

Best Attorney: Chloe Rizk

Best Witness: Max Grill

Stephen Azar was selected as fifth best attorney in the state competition.

- ★ A correction to yesterday's track announcement... in Saturday's track meet, Olivia Leatherman placed first in the pole vault.
- ★ Congratulations to the junior high baseball team on their 5 to 3 victory over Stone County last night!