

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

Make a saraph and mount it on a pole. (Numbers 21:8)

This is one of the more peculiar stories in the Bible. What point is God trying to make with a snake on a pole?

Perhaps if we were to read this story in light of the Gospel, we might find some answers. St. Paul wrote that "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). Just as the Israelites' sin earned them a deadly snakebite, so too do we suffer death as the consequence of our sin. Venom does to the body what sin does to the soul.

The Israelites had to trust in God's plan for their deliverance, and so do we. In his mercy, God did not leave us in our sin. Rather, he provided a remedy. The wages of sin may be death, according to Paul, "but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23). God healed the Israelites with the bronze serpent on a pole, just as he delivered us through his Son, who was "lifted up" and hung on a tree for our sins (John 8:28; 12:32). If sin is the serpent fatally biting us, then Jesus' blood is the antidote by

which we are delivered from death.

What the Israelites did with the serpent, we are invited to do with the cross: look upon it with faith. That's where Jesus bore our sins and won victory. There are no hoops to jump through, no need to prove ourselves. Salvation comes from God, not from us. It comes because of Jesus' death and resurrection, not because of our best intentions or efforts.

Jesus once told Nicodemus: "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life" (John 3:14-15). So the next time you look at a crucifix, see the mercy of the Father who sacrificed his Son for you. Lent isn't over yet, so take advantage of this time to go further with the Lord and experience the healing power of the cross. Ask Jesus to bear your burdens and wash away your sin and guilt, for his sacrifice and mercy are flowing for everyone.

"Father, thank you for your love. I trust in your mercy and look to your Son on the cross for healing and salvation."

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Today's Announcements:

- ★ Happy Birthday to David Alexander!
- ★ Seniors, your Graduation Invitations have been delivered and are available for pickup in the front office with Mrs. Collier.
- ★ In last week's track meet, the girls 4 by 800m relay team of Gabby Patino, Quinlan Pisciotto, Jordan Pete, and Isabel Leatherman placed first with a personal record time. The relay team currently holds the best overall time in the state at the 2A level. Isabel Leatherman also placed third in the 3200m run.

- ★ We would like to wish the boys golf team good luck as they compete today in the Gulfport Invitational at the Great Southern Club.
- ★ The deadline for submissions to this month's edition of *Aisling* is this Friday. Please submit any original art, photography, videos and writings. The theme for this issue is Spirit.
- ★ Cafeteria balances have been put in your box in the teachers lounge please pass them out to your first period classes.
- ★ The top three classes are:

In third: Camps with \$60

In second: Hebert with \$65.90

and still in first: Buckley with \$150.24

This week is the final week for Pennies for Patients, so please be generous and donate to this wonderful cause! Student Council will collect teachers' boxes on Friday afternoon for final counting. Remember, the class with the most money will receive a pasta party from Olive Garden during their lunch. All teachers whose classes raise over \$300 will receive a deep-clean of their classrooms. Last year we raised over \$3000; let's try to beat it!

- ★ Quiz Bowl A and B teams were undefeated in three rounds of play last night at St. Stanislaus. Our A team lost by one question in the Lightning Round to this season's undefeated Long Beach team.