

# ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

## DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friday, April 20, 2018

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### Today's Prayer and Reflection:

*"Saul, my brother . . ." (Acts 9:17)*

Most of us are familiar with the story in today's first reading: how Saul is blinded by an encounter with Christ, how he is sent to Ananias, and how this one time persecutor is baptized. It's a moving story of conversion. But let's look at another story within Paul's story: Ananias' own "conversion" from seeing Paul as an enemy to seeing him as his brother.

Ananias' willingness to forgive did more than just heal his relationship with Paul. It also opened Paul to the power of divine mercy. Hearing the word "brother" was key to forming Paul as a believer: if he, a feared persecutor, could become a brother, anyone could—even the Gentiles. It was experiences like this that convinced Paul that nothing can separate people "from the love of Christ" and that Jesus can break down every "dividing wall of enmity" (Romans 8:39, Ephesians 2:14).

Here are some other examples of how forgiveness can change hearts:

- St. Maria Gorretti forgave Alessandro Serenelli, the man

who murdered her. That act of mercy stayed with him and prompted his conversion in prison. Upon his release, he spent the rest of his life as a Capuchin brother happily serving at a Catholic school.

- Pope St. John Paul II forgave Mehmet Ali Ağca, the man who shot him in St. Peter's Square. When he was released, Ağca brought two-dozen white roses to John Paul II's tomb.
- Immaculée Ilibagiza forgave the people who murdered her family during the Rwandan genocide. Her powerful story has touched the lives thousands of people around the world and has led many to forgive those who have deeply hurt them.

Every time we show mercy to our spouse or child, our Father sees it. Every time we reconcile with an old friend, God rejoices. Every time we choose mercy instead of vengeance, the angels celebrate. What a message of hope! In a world riven by hatred, division, and enmity, we can make a world of difference. Just as Ananias did.

*"Father, help me to forgive. Come and bring your mercy to my relationships that need to be healed."*

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### Today's Announcements:

- ★ Happy Birthday to Aja Bui today! Also, Christopher Alley, Tyler Jackson, Alexa Tatum, and Rachel Vivian will celebrate their birthdays this weekend!
- ★ Class officer elections will begin next week. Applications are now available in the front office and are due on Tuesday with a campaign meeting that afternoon. Please pick up an application and return it to Mrs. Buckley in room 200.

- ★ In yesterday's regional track meet, St. Patrick girls finished second place in team honors and the boys finished fourth in team honors.

The following students qualified for South State: Ryan Hymel, Tayler Ibele, Bricen Rivers, Makenzie Stenum, Leila Ransonet, Cade Meyers, Dylan Middleton, Amelie Million, Kendall Pitre, Camille Pitre, Ella McLoughlin, Alexa Tatum, Gabby Patino, Olivia Williams, Dominic Patino, Tyler Gerretse, Jadon Turner, Jordan Pete, Quinlan Pisciotta, Isabel leatherman, Olivia Leatherman, Morgan Owen, and Jameson Thriffiley.

Congratulations to the track teams - Coach Dellenger would like to thanks those students who help in the concession and on the track yesterday evening.

- ★ NHS members, if you are a senior and are planning to wear an NHS stole, you must pay Ms. Wilkinson by Monday. If you are a junior and are planning to run for an office, you must see Ms. Wilkinson today.
- ★ Junior high and high school boys and girls soccer tryouts will be held next week. Junior high tryouts will be on Wednesday, April 25, from 3:30 to 5:30 at the stadium. High school tryouts will be Thursday, April 26, from 3:30 to 5:30. There will also be a makeup tryout held on Friday, April 27, for anyone who is not able to make the junior high or high school tryout.

Any girls who plan to try out for junior high or high school soccer need to sign the list on Coach Villarrubia's door.