

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

*His household rejoiced at having come to faith in God.
(Acts 16:34)*

Did you know that the Greek word for conversion, *metanoia*, literally means to change one's mind or heart? Today's first reading is one of Scripture's most powerful stories about conversion. Unjustly, Paul and Silas are arrested, beaten, and thrown into prison because they freed a young woman from demonic possession. Of course, the real reason for their arrest was that by rescuing this woman, they were depriving a man of the money he was making off of her uncanny ability to tell the future.

Instead of complaining, which they had every right to do, Paul and Silas spent their time in prison praying and singing to the Lord. The other prisoners were so moved by their prayers that when the chance to escape came, none of them fled.

The jailer was about to commit suicide rather than face the consequences of prisoners escaping on his watch. But Paul stopped him and assured him that no one had escaped. That changed the jailer's heart as well. He took Paul and Silas home, dressed their wounds, and fed them. That night, that

jailer and his whole family experienced conversion.

A close look at this story can offer us some helpful guidance as we try to be instruments of conversion, as Paul and Silas were. For instance, did you notice that Paul did not protest his imprisonment? Being a Roman citizen, he had the right to a fair trial, but he never received one (Acts 16:37). Is it possible that Paul chose to remain silent so that he could bring it up later and so meet the town leaders—and, of course, evangelize them? Notice too how warm and inviting he and Silas were to the man who had thrown them in prison—and who probably administered his own beating on them. "Unusual" behavior like this must have touched the jailer and led him and his family to a *metanoia*—to a change in life.

Likewise, our "unusual" acts of mercy and love instead of revenge and bitterness can move people today. This is especially true when our acts are coupled with prayer. So go ahead and be unusual. Try your best to let your gifts of kindness, generosity, and mercy draw people, especially your loved ones, toward God.

"Lord, help me to be unusual, just as you were on so many occasions."

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Today's Announcements:

- ★ Happy Birthday to Jordan Pete, Diego Riojas, Jacob Roberts, and Mrs. Williams!
- ★ We are on pep rally schedule today. At 2:30 this afternoon, we will have a ceremony and presentation of the 2018 yearbook - *Our Journey!* If you did not purchase a yearbook at registration and would like one, we will take orders starting Wednesday at the front desk - the price is \$100 per book.

- ★ We will take a photo of the St. Patrick Knights of Columbus tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. The following students are asked to bring their jackets and degree lapel pin for the photo tomorrow morning: Carson Bishop, Connor Hartery, Beau Broussard, Britton Tatum, Jacob Fennell, Richard Springer, Austin Schepens, Will McMackin, Spencer Wingfield, and Matthew Bisner.
- ★ This is a reminder to everyone that cell phones are not allowed at St. Patrick during the school day. Teachers, if you see or hear a phone, be sure to turn it into the office with a referral.
- ★ Our academic awards night for students in seventh through eleventh grade is scheduled for tomorrow evening at 6:00 p.m. in the gym.
- ★ Seniors, you will be notified of your exemption status for final exams tomorrow afternoon by email. You are only required to attend the classes in which you are required to take a final exam. You must check in with the front office upon arriving on campus, and there are no check outs during exam periods - you will need to stay in class until the end of the class period. Also, we will follow the regular uniform dress code for the rest of the week with car tag jean day on Friday.
- ★ There is a sign-up sheet for the Fall 2018 cross country teams in Ms. Alexander's room (Room 206). Any interested students are welcome to sign up. This will put you on an email list to receive information about summer workouts.
- ★ Coach Dellenger needs all track members to start turning in their uniforms ASAP.