

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday, October 29, 2018

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

A woman was there who for eighteen years had been crippled by a spirit. (Luke 13:11)

Imagine how this woman's affliction affected her everyday life. She couldn't look up at the sky. She needed help to reach items over her head. It was next to impossible to find a comfortable spot to sit or sleep.

Much Jewish thinking at the time made a correlation between illness and sin (John 9:2). God rewarded a virtuous person with good health and punished sinners with misfortune of every sort, including disease. Since this woman bore an obvious disability, she must have done something terrible to deserve it. So people probably avoided her, not only because her appearance made them uncomfortable, but because they feared contamination by contact with her unholiness.

Burdened by actual and imagined guilt, this woman must have searched her heart over and over, trying to find out what she had done to deserve this affliction. At the same time, she also persevered in her faith and trust in God. Why else would she have been at the synagogue?

Seeing her faith, Jesus spoke words of freedom and touched her. She was healed instantly, and her immediate reaction was to praise God! Not only had Jesus straightened her back; he freed her from guilt and isolation as well.

Many things keep us from standing up and giving glory to God. It could be a physical illness for which we subtly blame God. It could be a fractured relationship or the memory of a past sin that we doubt God will forgive. Whatever it is, after carrying such burdens for years, we can get used to having them. We hardly notice that we are compensating for our supposed disabilities, maybe by avoiding new situations or withdrawing into ourselves.

Think of your most challenging situation. Is it too hard for Jesus? Absolutely not! Is there a sin too big for Jesus to forgive? No. Is he punishing you for some past misdeed? Of course not. So follow this woman's lead. Go to Jesus, in the "inner synagogue" of your heart and the sanctuary of your Church. Be where he is so that he can see you, touch you, and set you free.

"Father, release me from everything that burdens my spirit, especially shame and guilt."

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Today's Announcements:

- ★ Happy Birthday to Jaydah Alexander, Dale Edwardson, and Amelie Million!
- ★ The brothers and sisters in Christ who have been dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Michael have certainly been in our thoughts and prayers. We have received word from Superintendent Mike Juhas of their Diocese, and we understand that St. John Catholic School was heavily damaged and is in the process of relocating. Their Diocese is collecting monetary donations to help with opening a temporary school among other urgent needs. We are asking for donations to send to St. John and the surrounding damaged parishes from our St. Patrick family of faith. If you would like to contribute, please send your donations this week to your first period teacher. Checks

may be made payable to SPCHS as we will combine and send our funds together. Donations in any amount are received with prayerful gratitude.

- ★ Juniors and seniors, tomorrow is the ACT. Report directly to your assigned room tomorrow morning. Make sure you have an approved calculator and two number two pre-sharpened wooden pencils. Mechanical pencils may not be used on the ACT! Juniors and seniors may wear jeans with any St. Patrick shirt tomorrow.
- ★ There will be a meeting for anyone interested in playing softball at 7:45 on Wednesday, October 31 in room 105.
- ★ St. Alphonsus Knights of Columbus is seeking volunteers to serve Thanksgiving meals to senior citizens November 18 from 10:30 to 2:00. See Mrs. Collier in the front office to sign up.
- ★ This week the SAVE club is sponsoring Red Ribbon Week at St. Patrick. Red Ribbon Week is the nation's oldest and largest drug prevention awareness campaign and has millions of participants each year. SAVE club will be visible throughout the week encouraging everyone to make safe decisions in their lives. On Wednesday we are all encouraged to "sock it to drugs!" and to wear our craziest socks to school.
- ★ Bible study will meet tomorrow in room 112. We will discuss chapter 9 of John.