

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS Wednesday, December 5, 2018

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

*They picked up the fragments left over—seven baskets full.
(Matthew 15:37)*

Here's a question to ponder. If Jesus is the all-knowing perfect Son of God, why didn't he give the apostles exactly the right amount of food for this crowd? Why did they end up with extra bread? Maybe he thought that the disciples might get hungry again. Or maybe he anticipated more people showing up later. More likely, Jesus used the leftovers to teach his disciples something.

The number of baskets remaining—seven—can give us a clue. In Jewish tradition, seven was an expression of perfection, the kind of perfection found only in God. It took God six days to create the world, and then he rested on the seventh. It was a day of satisfaction and plenty. It was a time to enjoy his creation. In the same way, the bread that Jesus provided satisfied the crowd in a way that no earthly food could (Matthew 15:37).

The number seven also shows us God's limitless generosity. Isaiah lists seven gifts of the Spirit (11:2-3). The Book of Proverbs describes divine wisdom as having seven pillars (9:1). Jesus told Peter to forgive "seventy-seven times," that

is, always (Matthew 18:22). He knew that Peter could be so forgiving because God's mercy is boundless.

Notice also that the apostles started with seven baskets, and they finished with seven baskets. It was Jesus' way of saying that whenever we rely on God's resources in our giving to someone, we will never run out. These fragments weren't really leftovers. They were part of his endless supply of blessings!

All of these elements apply in a special way to the Eucharist, the Bread of Life that Jesus gives us every day at Mass. This bread, which is his Body, is unlike any other food we could ever eat. It is perfect, lacking in nothing. It is full of God's eternal, unlimited blessings. When we receive this bread in faith and surrender our hearts to Jesus, he fills us with everything we need. He satisfies our hearts' deepest desires. And he gives us plenty of "leftover" grace to share with everyone we will encounter. What a generous, loving God he is!

"Lord, I trust that your Body and your Blood can satisfy the deepest desires of my heart."

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Today's Announcements:

- ★ We wish our seniors all the best on their spiritual retreat today. Students, please keep the class of 2019 in your prayers today.
- ★ Service hours are due by December 14. Because of the calculation for senior exemptions, seniors your service hours are due by December 12.

- ★ It's that time of year again! Let's get our school in the Christmas spirit by participating in our annual door decorating contest. Each first period should creatively decorate their door in time for judging on Tuesday December 11. There will be two winners this year- a religious one and a festive one.
- ★ There will be an FCA Chapter Meeting this Friday in the auditorium at 7:50 am.
- ★ The following clubs will be photographed this Thursday beginning at 12:50. Please know that there will not be a makeup day. This is for students only. Sponsors will be photographed separately.
 - Aisling 12:51-12:56
 - Bible Study 12:57-1:01
 - National Junior Honor Society 1:02-1:12
 - Choir 1:13-1:18
 - National Honor Society 1:19-1:29
 - National Science Honor Society 1:30-1:40
 - National English Honor Society 1:41-1:51
 - Spanish Honor Society 1:52-2:02
 - Drama Guild 2:03-2:13
- ★ Deacon Buddy at St. Thomas Catholic Church in Long Beach is hosting a drive for the Stone County Correctional Facility and the Harrison County Prison. The items needed include: white men and women crew socks, men and women deodorant, shampoo, body wash, and hard candies. Please bring your items to your first period classes. All items are due by December 14. Thank you for your participation.
- ★ We would like to congratulate our girls varsity basketball team on their victory last night against Sacred Heart. We won 47-40. Players of the game were Gabby Patino, Emilee Nolte, Makenzie Stenum, and Ijia Henderson.
- ★ The Irish boys varsity basketball team defeated Sacred Heart 74-31 last night to improve to 8 wins with 0 losses on the season. The team was led by Jay Parker with 11 points 5 rebounds and 4 assists. Drew Roth, Holden Hewes, Parker Frame, Windfield Swetman, and Christian McKee had major contributions for the Irish. The team will travel to East Central Friday.
- ★ The auditions for the spring production have been postponed until January. There will be no auditions this week.