

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS Wednesday, October 16, 2019

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

*... tithes of mint and of rue and of every garden herb.
(Luke 11:42)*

According to the Law of Moses, Jewish families were expected to give 10 percent of all their produce and possessions as an offering to the Lord. This tithe was used to help support the Levites, who offered worship in the Temple, and to help care for the poor of the land. Nobody in Israel should go hungry, and it was up to everyone to make sure that didn't happen. This was part of God's command to the Israelites to love their neighbors as themselves.

So why was Jesus criticizing these Pharisees? They were paying their tithes, weren't they?

Well, yes and no. Many scholars believe that these Pharisees were indeed giving a tenth of their kitchen seasonings but not much more. They were doing just enough to look good, but that was all. Just enough to appear to be obeying the Law.

This was Jesus' constant concern about his opponents: by focusing so much on God's Law, they lost sight of the people that the Law was meant to protect. Nobody can live off of garden herbs! But that didn't matter; they just wanted to satisfy the bare minimum.

In an April 2016 address, Pope Francis discussed this very issue. He cautioned us against seeing almsgiving as a "burden or an annoyance from which to free ourselves in haste." Rather, he said, we should "stop and look in the face, in the eyes of that person who is asking me" (Jubilee Audience, April 9, 2016).

See the people you are helping. Focus on the child of God in front of you. Do this, and you will end up obeying God's commands more fully than if you were to focus only on the commandments themselves.

According to St. Paul, "The whole law is fulfilled in one statement, namely, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'" (Galatians 5:14). Generosity. Kindness. Compassion. Forgiveness. This is how we fulfill God's laws.

Jesus also told us, "Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40). This is the beauty of the gospel message and the heart of all God's commands: by focusing on loving our brothers and sisters, we don't just fulfill God's laws; we also meet Jesus!

"Lord, teach me how to love."

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Today's Announcements:

- Today is day 4 of the advisement rotation.

- The Knights of Columbus at St. Alphonsus need volunteers to help serve hamburgers and hot dogs at the Peter Anderson Festival - Saturday, November 2, and Sunday, November 3. If you're interested in signing up, see Mrs. Collier in the front office.
- The following students should see Mrs. Aldrich after school in the library: Mitchell Badurak, Chris Frazier, James Frazier, Michael Fitzpatrick, Tyler Gerretse, and Alaina Olsen.
- Nativity BVM is seeking volunteers to help out with their "Haunted Mansion" Haunted House this Saturday afternoon. If you're interested, please see Mrs. Collier in the front office for sign up information.
- SAVE club members have a meeting tomorrow morning in room 118 at 7:45am. If you want to participate in Red Ribbon Week and cannot attend please see Dr. Casey sometime today.
- Students for Life will meet tomorrow morning at 7:45am in Mrs. Cloud's room (216). We will discuss the upcoming Pro-life Movie night and March for Life. Remember that only active members of Students for Life are eligible to attend March for Life, so please make sure to attend this meeting and the upcoming events.
- Seniors, just a reminder that your senior quotes, baby photo and a current photo are all due this Friday! Please see Mrs. Aldrich in the library to get turn in these items.