

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS Monday, November 16, 2019

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

Many in Israel were determined and resolved in their hearts. (1 Maccabees 1:62)

Do you remember the image of the twenty-one Coptic Christian men in orange jumpsuits? They were lined up on a beach, kneeling and about to be martyred for their faith. It was a stark reminder that the kind of persecution depicted in today's first reading is still happening today.

The first Book of Maccabees begins tragically. Some Israelites had decided to go along with a pagan king's efforts to destroy the Jewish religion and "seduced" other Jews to join them (1:11). As a result, many abandoned the faith—but not all. Some remained "determined and resolved" not to forsake the Lord (1:62). And for their faith, they were put to death.

Most of us don't face this kind of persecution. We are not forced to choose between God and our communities, our rights, or even life itself. But some of our brothers and sisters do face these kinds of choices:

- Of the 70 million Christians who have been martyred in the course of history, more than half were martyred in the twentieth century.

- 322 Christians are killed for their faith every month.
- 105 churches are destroyed every month.
- 722 forms of violence are committed against Christians every month.
- Christians in more than 60 countries face some form of persecution.

Such widespread violence can make us feel powerless. But we can help! We can support organizations that defend persecuted Christians. And just as important, we can pray. We are connected to our persecuted brothers and sisters by the bonds of Baptism and faith. When they suffer, the whole body of Christ suffers—including us. But if we join our prayers to theirs, Jesus will hear our cries and answer us.

At the same time, we can also pray for the people who are persecuting Christians. God wants everyone to turn to him, even those who have committed the worst atrocities. May they all come to know the saving love and mercy of Jesus Christ our Lord!

"Jesus, hear the cries of your people. Convert the hearts of those who are persecuting them."

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Today's Announcements:

- Happy birthday to Kiera Galbraith and Ms. Gatha Gayden!
- Today is day 6 of the advisement rotation.

- We will decorate the lobby for Advent and Christmas tomorrow (Tuesday) afternoon from 3:15 to 4:30. All are invited to join. Please email Mrs. Collier if you plan to attend.
- Tryouts for tennis will be held Tuesday, November 19, from 4:00 to 5:30 at Bayou Bluff.
- The St. Alphonsus Knights of Columbus is seeking volunteers to help serve Thanksgiving dinner on Sunday, November 24, from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Please see Mrs. Collier in the front office to sign up.
- The junior high math club will meet this Wednesday, November 20, at 7:40 in room 102.
- The National Honor Society is sponsoring the annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. Please bring canned goods and leave them in your 1st period class.
- Students who are participating in the Christmas Cantata are reminded that practices are Mondays and Thursdays from 3:00 to 4:00.
- The National English Honor Society has English tutors available every morning and afternoon this week for 30 minutes before and after school. Take advantage of this opportunity to get help with current classwork or start preparing for exams. ACT practice is also held on Wednesday afternoons.
- Bible study will be meeting tomorrow in the chapel at 7:30.
- Congratulations to our Robotics Team Tempest for a great and successful tournament this weekend. We hosted the Gulf Coast Regional Tournament and we were the winner of the Motivate Award; we were also nominated for the Connect Award, Innovate, and Inspire Awards. We will now advance to the State Championships at Ole Miss in Oxford. Thank you to all of the members who worked so hard to help make this weekend so successful. There will be no robotics meetings this week.