

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS Tuesday, November 19, 2019

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

If I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over. (Luke 19:8)

Try to imagine this scenario for a moment: you are Zacchaeus the tax collector, and you hear that Jesus is in town. You run out of your house and climb all the way up a tree to see him. Maybe you cut your knee on your way up, but you don't care. You have to see this fellow! But then he sees you—and he speaks directly to you. You are so moved that you promise to give half your possessions to the poor and to restore fourfold anyone you've defrauded.

Now, imagine that he says to you, "That's all right. You didn't have to go so far as to scramble up that tree. And you certainly don't have to give away so much money. Just give back what you owe, and make sure you come to the synagogue every Sabbath. I don't want you to overdo it."

Jesus would never react that way. It's not that he demanded extravagant restitution as punishment for Zacchaeus' acts of dishonesty. And it's not that he needed Zacchaeus to balance the scales in an extreme way. No, he saw how

Zacchaeus was making a sincere, voluntary gesture. Zacchaeus was acting freely, responding to the love that Jesus had for him (Luke 19:9). His restitution was an act of gratitude, not obligation.

That's the way the mercy of God works. It is so extravagant and generous that it changes us. It convinces us to love and to give just as freely as Jesus has given to us. As St. Paul said, it "impels us" in a way that everyday logic can never do (2 Corinthians 5:14).

Spend some time in prayer today rejoicing in the extravagant, extreme, and unbounded love that Jesus has for you. Put yourself in Zacchaeus' shoes, and let your encounter with the Lord move you to praise and worship him. "He loves me! He forgives me! He welcomes me with open arms!" Let these truths ring in your heart today. Let them help you to love just as freely and generously as you are loved.

"Lord, show me your love and your mercy. Come, Jesus, and teach me to be just as extravagant as you are!"

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Today's Announcements:

- Happy birthday to Caden DeMers and Lynsey Nguyen!
- Today is day 7 of the advisement rotation.
- Tryouts for tennis will be held today, 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 tomorrow 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 first 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.
- There will be choir rehearsal today immediately after school in the band hall.
- Softball tryouts will be Wednesday, December 11, at 3:30 at the softball complex. You need to be on the field by 3:30 dressed and ready for tryouts. Make sure you have a glove, proper attire, and a physical. Tryouts will last until 5:30. If you have any questions, please see Coach Blakeney.
- We would like to congratulate the eighth grade Lady Irish basketball team on their victory last night against Pearl River Central. We won 41-13. Players of the game were Chloe Santiago, Hailey Necaize, and Grace Milligan. Congratulations girls!
- The St. Patrick Junior High Lady Irish soccer team defeated Hancock last night by a score of 6 to 0. Goals were scored by Addison Fountain, Kadence Sheppard, Anna Katherine Thriffiley, Elizabeth Colson, and Maddie Holder. The team is now 2-2 on the season.
- Congratulations to the eighth grade junior high boys basketball team on their 62-22 victory over Pearl River Central last night. All players put forth a great effort to contribute to this victory.
- A representative from Herff Jones will be on campus this Thursday during lunch to take orders for the Women's Cross Country State Championship rings.