

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

From his roots a bud shall blossom. (Isaiah 11:1)

Every year around this time, poinsettia growers are engaged in an elaborate regimen aimed at making their plants turn red at just the right time. By following a precise sequence of exposure to light and darkness, they “force” the poinsettia’s green leaves to turn red. The plant must be kept in sunlight during the day, then in total darkness at least twelve hours a night for an entire month. Even a brief exposure to light during this period can interrupt the reddening process. It’s a lot of work, but the results of these efforts are breathtaking.

This is a good illustration of the blessings of the Advent season. For a whole month, the Church asks us to alter our environment so that we can enter into a time of quiet waiting. It asks us to step back from our everyday routines so that we can spend time in prayerful reflection. And by changing our natural routine in this way, we get the chance to grow and “bloom.”

If you want to bloom this Christmas, now is the time to change up your ordinary way of doing things. Try to unplug

from the “bright light” of all the activities that encourage you to stay busy all the time. Set aside time for the “dormancy” of thoughtful solitude as you try to sit quietly with the Scriptures and hear God’s voice in your heart.

Making these kinds of changes in your routine will nurture your faith, even if you don’t notice it. Remember the poinsettia! It doesn’t know that it’s turning red. It just does it by responding to the changes in its environment. Similarly, as you modify your routine and your environment, your heart will respond to the changes and something will happen inside of you. Maybe you will become less likely to snap at someone who annoys you. You might catch yourself smiling more often. Or you might slowly realize that something that tempted you in the past doesn’t have as much power over you anymore.

The people around you will be able to see it too. Don’t be surprised, then, if your life has a ripple effect on them.

“Lord, help me slow down during this special season.”

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Today's Announcements:

- Happy birthday to Gavin Lansou!
- Today is day 5 of the advisement rotation.
- 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.

- Track and field sign ups for junior high and varsity teams will be from December 2 to 13 with Coach Dellenger in room 108.
- The Interact Club will be participating in the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Biloxi National Cemetery on December 7, at 11:00 am. There will be a ceremony for those who are laid to rest at the Biloxi National Cemetery and will follow with laying of the wreaths upon the grave sites. Ms. Moon will be there with a sign in sheet at the ceremony. Parking can be a challenge so you will want to arrive before 11:00.
- The final payment for March for Life of \$200 is due this Friday. Please make checks payable to St. Patrick and submit to Mrs. Cloud.
- Friday is the Feast of Saint Nicholas. To celebrate the feast day we will be having a Nickel war - All Silver Coins are positive points, dollars are negative points, and pennies are negative points. This will be divided among grade levels. Each grade is asked to drop their coins in the jars during class change. The grade with the most money raised will get to pick which charity it will be donated.
 - Silver Coins - positive points
 - Nickel: 5 points, Dime: 10 points, Quarter: 25 points
 - Pennies and Dollars - negative points
 - Penny: -1 point, 1 Dollar: -100 points, 5 Dollars: -500 points
- Congratulations to the eighth grade boys basketball team for their 57-42 victory over Stone last night. Ryan Roth had 13 points, John Hay had 11, Dylan Nguyen and Jack Hewes each added 9 points, and Matthew Krass added 8 points. The Irish improve to 5-0.
- We would like to congratulate the 8th grade Lady Irish basketball team on their victory last night against Stone Middle. We won 29-6, players of the game were Ashlyn Stegall, Mary Frontz, and Grace Milligan. Congratulations girls!
- There will be choir rehearsal immediately after school on Wednesday in the band hall.
- Congratulations to the junior high Lady Irish soccer team on their 3-2 win against Gulfport last night.
- The FCA chapter has a meeting for next Monday, December 9, at 7:50.