

ST. PATRICK

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, January 22, 2020

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

Stretch out your hand. (Mark 3:5)

Instead of avoiding the religious leaders' scrutiny, Jesus pushed forward. He invited the man with the disability to join him in the front of the synagogue and asked his detractors a pointed question: "Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath rather than to do evil?" (Mark 3:4). Understanding what he was referring to, they remained silent. Their hardheartedness disturbed Jesus, for it had condemned this man to continued suffering. As far as he was concerned, their failure to act amounted to evil-doing.

Today, as we remember the United States Supreme Court's infamous *Roe v. Wade* decision, which made legalized abortion possible in the United States, this Gospel reading is especially challenging. It warns us against failing to act. To disregard the vulnerability of the unborn, to turn a deaf ear to the fears and concerns of their parents can be like passing by a wounded traveler on the other side of the road (Luke 10:29-37). This story urges us to step out in faith instead.

"But what difference could I possibly make? Abortion is such a polarizing issue. How can I turn the tide?"

Jesus told the man, "Stretch out your hand" (Mark 3:5). But the man's hand was useless. He couldn't do what Jesus commanded, but he obeyed anyway. And in that obedience, he found healing.

Today Jesus says to us, "Stretch out your hand." Stretch out your hand in prayer, asking for a change of heart among those who advocate for abortion. Stretch out your hand in service by offering to help a single mom trying to make ends meet, by giving prayerful witness in front of an abortion clinic, or by supporting your parish's respect-life group. Of course your resources are inadequate, but God always makes possible what he commands. If salvation can come from a baby in a manger, don't ever discount how much of a difference you can make.

As we pray for the unborn today, let's remember today's first reading. David was able to rescue his people with only a few stones and deep faith. In a similar way, we can triumph over fear, cynicism, and despair by stretching out our hands and witnessing to the preciousness of life.

"Jesus, show me what I can do today to help protect the dignity of the unborn."

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Today's Announcements:

- Today is day 2 of the advisement schedule.
- Any young lady 15-18 years of age may compete for Miss Gulf Coast Teen (formerly Miss Camellia Queen) sponsored by the Biloxi Lions Club. The date is Saturday, February 1. The judging consists of an interview that

will be conducted that morning and an evening gown competition. Scholarships are available for the winner and runner-ups. Please see Ms. Gryder in room 211 for an application or more details

- Track and field practice will start this Monday, January 27. If you are in a winter sport, you are excused from practice until your winter sport ends. Attendance will be taken. Also, those who did not receive a packet please see Coach Dellenger.
- We would like to congratulate the Lady Irish varsity basketball team on their victory last night against Perry Central. We won 60-18. Players of the game were Gabby Patino, Emilee Nolte, Quinlan Pisciotta, and Jasmine Stawarski. Congratulations ladies!
- The Fighting Irish men's basketball team improved to 15 wins and 5 losses on the season with a 69-50 victory over Perry Central last night. Drew Roth scored 30 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Irish. Nick Krass added 14 points and 5 assists and Briggs Menendez played well with 11 points and 10 rebounds. The Irish will host Richton Thursday with the JV boys playing at 5pm followed by the Varsity game. Go Irish!
- Congratulations to the varsity men's soccer team for making the playoffs by defeating Resurrection on Monday 1 to 0.
- Women's soccer got a good home win against 6A D'Iberville 7-1. Goals scored by Linda Mustered and Jessica Harrison. The Lady Irish are now 11-9 on the season tying the most wins in the regular season with one game to play.
- The Knights of Columbus of Fatima Parish are sponsoring an essay contest open to students in grades 8-12. The prompt for the contest is "What does it take to be a good citizen of the United States?" Cash prizes will be awarded for first, second, and third places. Please see Mr. Eleuterius for an entry form and contest rules.
- Coastal Family Health Center is seeking volunteers for their annual 5K race on Saturday, February 29. They need help with setting up, working water stations, and cleaning up after the event. If you are interested in this service opportunity, please see Mrs. Collier in the front office for more information.