

# ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

## DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS Tuesday, January 28, 2020

### Today's Prayer and Reflection:

*Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother. (Mark 3:35)*

Is Jesus really being dismissive of his family members, including his very own mother, Mary? On the surface, it might seem so. But if we understand this passage to mean that Jesus treated his close family members harshly, we are missing an important point about the kingdom he came to inaugurate.

Jesus took the occasion of his family's interrupting him to show yet again how the kingdom of God changes everything. It even invites us to reconsider the meaning of family! By his words, Jesus showed us that "family" isn't restricted any more to relations by blood or adoption or marriage. "Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother," Jesus taught (Mark 3:35, emphasis added).

Of course, we all have our immediate families and our extended families. But Jesus is telling us that we are also members of the biggest, most extended family in history: the household of God. In this family, we are united not by human blood but by Jesus' own blood shed on the cross and by the saving waters of Baptism.

And what a wondrous family it is! We have God as our father, Jesus as our brother, and Mary as our mother. We have the saints in heaven who intercede for us. And here on earth, we have brothers and sisters—in our parish, at work, in our neighborhoods, and in our families—who are willing to walk alongside us, pray for us, and support us in our faith. With God's grace, we can do the same for them, loving and caring for them as we would our own blood relatives.

We might still wonder if Mary's feelings were a bit hurt by Jesus' words. But remember, Mary was not only Jesus' mother; she was also his disciple. As she pondered what it meant to follow Jesus, she must have realized that his mission was also her mission, his family also her family. Was she ready to embrace Jesus' new definition of what it meant to be family? Of course! May we do the same.

*"Jesus, thank you for calling me to belong to your family. Help me to love and joyfully serve my brothers and sisters in Christ."*

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### Today's Announcements:

- Happy birthday to Carson Jenkins, Isabel and Olivia Leatherman!
- Today is day 6 of the advisement schedule.

- The NEHS students are offering to help with English and Reading practice for the ACT every Wednesday afternoon in the library. The students will complete a practice passage, answer questions, review their answers, and discuss the rationale for the ones they missed.
- Juniors, our Ring Mass is this Thursday. All juniors who did not order a class ring from Herff Jones, please bring your ring to Mrs. Collier by the end of today. If you have questions, please see Mrs. Collier.
- Math Club members are reminded that this Thursday is the local round of the Mississippi Gulf Coast junior high math competition. The local test will be given in room 118 and you can take it Thursday either before school at 7:30 or after school at 3:05. Both groups will get the same amount of time so you can come to whichever is more convenient. If you are not a member of the math club and still want to compete please see Dr. Casey today.
- Today during lunch, the PTO is providing ice cream to everyone in honor of Catholic Schools Week.
- The Mock Trial practices for Tuesday and Thursday are mandatory. Practice will begin in room 116 right after school.
- We wish the varsity men's soccer team safe travels and all the best in their first round playoff game tonight at Franklin County.
- The Fighting Irish basketball teams will host East Marion in a key division game tonight - please come out and support the teams. The junior varsity boys start at 5:00 p.m. followed by the Lady Irish at 6, and the varsity men's team starts at 7:30 p.m.