

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS Wednesday, February 5, 2020

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

They took offense at him. (Mark 6:3)

So many miracles! In the previous chapter of Mark's Gospel alone, we see Jesus walk into a cemetery and cause a legion of demons to fly out of a man (5:1-20). We see a woman touch Jesus' clothing and receive a long hoped-for healing (5:25-34). And we see Jesus speak just two words to bring a young girl back to life (5:41). But then Jesus came to his hometown, and the mighty works diminished dramatically.

What happened? Where were the people clamoring to be near him? Instead of crying out for healing, they were taking offense at his teaching. God loves sinners as much as the righteous? I have to forgive my enemies? I can't live like that. Besides, who is he to tell me how to live?

Actually, we shouldn't be surprised that the people of Nazareth were getting tripped up by Jesus. Each of us probably has some areas where Jesus trips us up. We may avoid certain Bible verses or disregard certain Church teachings because they make us feel uncomfortable. There might be a plainspoken priest in town whose hard-hitting

homilies make us squirm or a fellow parishioner whose dedication to the poor challenges us. It's only natural to avoid someone whose witness moves us to think or act differently. But is it possible that the Holy Spirit might be using them to prick our consciences?

Is there something that "offends" you about Jesus and his teaching? If it's something from the Scriptures, take the time to reread those verses or that story prayerfully, and try to be open to a new or challenging insight. Does one of Jesus' commandments seem too hard? Honestly tell him so, and ask him to help you understand it more. Take some time to read about it, or ask your pastor for advice. Take just one step closer and ask the Spirit to soften your heart a bit more.

Don't be like the Nazarenes! Bring your thoughts and "offenses" to Jesus and ask him to heal and free you. Not in a magical stroke but by the slow process of changing your mind. That, in itself, is a mighty work.

"Lord Jesus, help me to listen to you and be healed."

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Today's Announcements:

- Happy birthday to Breanna Baltodano and Trent Nasakaitis!
- Today is day 5 of the advisement schedule.
- *Aisling* is St. Patrick Catholic High School's art and literary magazine. The theme for this edition of *Aisling* is "Vibrant." All students, faculty, and staff are invited to submit original writing, photography, or artwork - visit

the school website to submit. Submissions are due by February 14. Photographs, short stories, poems, artwork, and storyboards may be submitted for possible publication.

- There will be choir rehearsal in the band hall Wednesday immediately after school.
- Pictures for senior banners for the spring sports season will be taken next Tuesday during seventh period. If you want a senior banner you must have your payment when your picture is taken.
- The St. Patrick Quiz Bowl Team won their second match in a row by defeating Biloxi High 210 to 90, Gulfport 185 to 105, and the Long Beach "B" team 260 to 25. Then, after sweeping the 3 rounds, St. Patrick beat the Long Beach "A" team in the lightning round 13 to 4. Your Quiz Bowl Team is now 9 and 2 for the year.
- Math Club members are reminded that this Thursday is the local round of the MathCounts math competition. The local test will be given in room 118 tomorrow before school at 7:30. If you are not a member of the math club and still want to compete please see Dr. Casey today.
- The following clubs will be taking photos immediately after mass tomorrow in the courtyard: Student Council, National Honor Society, Mock Trial, Esports, and Drama Guild. If you are part of these clubs please stay in the courtyard after mass. If you are a club sponsor please plan to stay and be in the photo.