



DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL

shaping leaders in mind, body, and spirit

Hi all,

As you know, Sunday's *Gospel* came from Matthew—the “But who do you say that I am?” story where Peter proclaims Jesus to be the Messiah. It's a story that has been bouncing around in my head for the last couple of days, largely because of the way it was explicated by Fr. Theby at St. Peter Church. Father started his homily by talking about King David and what a great sinner David was. The focus on David struck me as an odd choice. While certainly a fascinating character, David wasn't mentioned in the first reading, and I couldn't see and obvious connection to Peter.

Most of us know the broad strokes of David's story. He rose to power with a slingshot and trust in God. Once in power, he famously sins—first with Bathsheba and then by sending Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, to his death. If you have a moment, (re)read the *Book of Samuel*. You'll see that after impregnating Bathsheba, David tries to cover up his sin by first bringing Uriah home from war and sending him to be with his wife. It is only after Uriah refuses to leave his men that David concocts the scheme to kill him. Truly underhanded stuff. And yet, David is the anointed one, the chosen King of Israel. In my scripture class this summer, we focused on why. Saul, David's predecessor, also commits sins, but his seem much smaller. For example, he doesn't wait long enough to make a sacrifice. The key difference between the two kings, however, is not in the severity of their sins, but how they respond. When called on it, Saul makes excuses for himself while blaming those around him. David, on the other hand, owns his sin and accepts the consequences.

Despite having just studied *Samuel* and loving David's story, I was still struggling to figure out why Fr. Theby was talking about him. When Father turned his attention from David to Peter, he didn't focus on Peter's proclamation of Jesus as the Messiah. Instead, he turned his attention to Christ's reaction to the proclamation. Jesus, as we know, makes Peter the head of the Church. Father reminded us that, fearing for his own life, Peter denied Jesus, and then Father wondered why such a man would be given the keys to the kingdom.

For Father Theby, the two great leaders are connected by their significant sins. Their own failings remind them of the need for mercy and make them fit leaders. As we lead the young men and women in our care through their adolescence, remembering our own failings (especially when we were their age) will help us teach them with the appropriate mixture of mercy, correction, and guidance.

Pax,

Dominic D'Urso



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Upcoming Events

- September 1 **Home Cross Country:** The First Capitol Invitational will be held at McNair Park.
- September 4 **Labor Day:** No School
- September 5 **Back to School Night:** On Tuesday evening, parents will have the opportunity to come up to school, walk in the steps of their children, and meet the teachers. The evening begins at 7:00. A Happy Hour reception will start beforehand at 6:00.
- Home Doubleheader – Tennis & Cross Country** (McNair)
- September 6 **Pioneer Spirit Night:** Encourage all of the grade schoolers you know (especially the 6th through 8th graders) to come out to the soccer game. There will be dessert trucks, scavengers hunts, and, of course, excellent soccer on the pitch!
- September 7 **Home Volleyball**
- September 8 **Home Football:** Swiftie Night! Over 100 grade schoolers will be performing with our Diamondline at halftime.
- September 11 **Home Soccer**
- September 12 **Home Soccer**
- September 13 **Home Volleyball**
- September 14 **All School Mass:** We will celebrate mass as a whole school community on Thursday. All of our families are welcome to attend; we'd love to see you. The mass will not start before 9:45. To ensure that we have enough chairs, please email Robyn Fuchs (rfuchs@duchesne-hs.org) if you plan to attend.
- Home Tripleheader – Volleyball, Soccer, & Golf** (Bogey)



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September 15

Freshman Retreat: The retreat will take place during the regular school day, starting at 7:40 and ending before the final bell. This is a dress down day for freshmen and their senior retreat leaders. A pizza lunch will be provided. Please bring a bottle of water. You can leave you iPads and books at home.

September 19

Home Tripleheader – Tennis, Volleyball, Golf (Bogey)

September 20

Home Tennis

September 21

Home Doubleheader – Volleyball & Golf (Bogey)

September 22

Home Football

