

April 9, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Please join me in prayer on this Holy Thursday.

*Heavenly Father, your Son teaches us that to lead we must serve, and to share his inheritance we must humbly accept service from others. On this Holy Thursday, we pray to you through the Son and the Spirit that we may be transformed by the humility that empowers both serving and being served. Amen.*

Welcome back! It's been a lot of fun getting back and connecting with our students once again. We are aware that there have been some concerns using Zoom for our social and "office hour" times. We want you to know that each teacher, as the host, accepts all security updates, uses passwords to protect meetings, uses waiting rooms and only allows those into the meeting that we know (Unknown names/guests will not be allowed to enter.) as well as record our meetings. There has been a little confusion as to which Zoom meetings your child should attend. To clarify, Zoom Social Meetings are the meetings that are mandatory. Social Zoom meetings are once a week with your child's homeroom teacher. The "Office Hours" that teachers are hosting from 1-2pm daily are for those students/parents who would like/need more explanation/clarification or have questions pertaining to assignments. Please let your child's teacher know how eLearning is going. Flexibility and adaptability are essential on this journey. We need your feedback to maintain academic excellence. Thank you!

Today your child's report card is available online through Powerschool. If you need assistance in locating this document on Powerschool, please contact Mrs. Chasity Campbell at [ccampbell@hfsqb.org](mailto:ccampbell@hfsqb.org). As students work in the Fourth Quarter, percentage grades will be earned for individual assignments. Discussions are still taking place at the regional level and at the Diocesan level regarding quarterly grades. I will keep you posted as information is given.

Here are a couple of quotes from students this week:

"Could we have one more day of First Grade when we come back to school in the fall?"

"If this(eLearning) is really school, then we should have lunch, recess, gym, music, art, library..."

We MISS YOU so much too!

With the Governor's announcement last week and the letter from our Superintendent, our eLearning will continue through May 29, 2020. From June 1 through June 5, students and teachers will work together to get any remaining assignments "collected". No new learning will be introduced from June 1- June 5. As restrictions become lifted, more specific plans can be made regarding events on our school calendar. At the current time, our DRE, Ms. Katie Church, announced that First Communion remains on the calendar for June 7. Depending on restrictions, this may change. Confirmation for our 8th Graders will be postponed. With the number of events being rescheduled at the Diocesan level, Ms. Church is hoping Confirmation will take place in the spring of 2021.

On this Holy Thursday, let us empty ourselves in loving service to others, as Jesus taught us!

Have a Blessed Easter!

Mrs. Theresa Purcell

Principal

Holy Family Catholic School

Below, please see the letter from our Diocesan Chancellor, Mr. Andrews. It is filled with a number of resources as we celebrate the Triduum.

The Sacred Triduum always calls us to enter deeply into the mysteries of Christ's life, death and resurrection, not as mere spectators, but in spirit and in truth. This year, we are challenged to carry that message into our homes in a new way, and perhaps even invite others to join us by internet or telephone. As a help, a collection of [resources](#) for Holy Week has been made available on our diocesan web page.

Holy Thursday is profoundly tied to the sacramental life of the Church. It is the anniversary of the institution of the Priesthood and the Most Holy Eucharist. At the Chrism Mass, the oil of catechumens and the oil of the sick are blessed. These are used in the sacraments of baptism and the anointing of the sick. The Bishop likewise consecrates the Sacred Chrism used at baptism, confirmation, and the ordination of [priests](#). In the evening, the Mass of the Lord's Supper recalls Christ's "new commandment" to love one another. Ideas to celebrate at home can be found [here](#).

This Good Friday all people across the United States are [invited](#) to join at noon in praying the [Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus](#) for an end to the coronavirus pandemic. The Holy See has enriched this devout exercise with a plenary indulgence. Throughout the day, the crucifix should have a prominent place in our devotions, and it is appropriate to venerate the cross just as we would during the liturgy of Good Friday. The fourteen [stations of the cross](#) can also be prayed at home.

Holy Saturday is a day for silence and simplicity. Many chose to observe Holy Saturday as a second day of fasting. An [ancient homily](#) for Holy Saturday provides a profound meditation by which we can enter into the spirit of this day.

A significant moment at the Easter Vigil and the Masses of Easter Sunday is the Gospel proclamation of the Lord's resurrection, the renewal of our baptismal promises, and the reception of the elect and candidates into the full sacramental life of the Church. The sacrifices of Lent are a spiritual preparation for this moment. All of us can certainly take this [Gospel](#) to prayer, [renew our baptismal promises](#), pray to the [Holy Spirit](#) to renew the graces of Confirmation, and join in a prayer of [spiritual Communion](#).

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Michael Andrews

Chancellor

P.S. The Easter Octave and Easter Season provide an opportunity to pray the fourteen [Stations of the Resurrection](#), a devotion introduced by Pope Saint John Paul II for the restoration of a culture of life.