



Parent Newsletter
April 15, 2020

St. Mary's School...Putting Faith in Children Since 1913

This is Remote Learning Day #15!

We are actually into the fourth week of Remote Learning Days. While we are unsure when the "Stay Home" Executive Order will end, we are committed to continue to provide learning to our students. We value our partnership with each of you and thank you for your role at home with your child(ren). Thank you for all that you are doing! Please send photos to Robbin at rclifton@smsterling.org and we will upload them to our website.

Drive-In Activity Cancelled

In last week's Parent Newsletter I explained that we all miss our students and families. We created an activity that we thought could bring us together, yet maintain social distancing. Unfortunately, after receiving some feedback from law enforcement, we are not able to hold this activity.

Scholastic Virtual Book Fair

Mrs. Linda Cook, our librarian, is setting up a Virtual Book Fair with Scholastic. Chris Howell, SMS parent, is working with Linda to coordinate this event. Look for a link with information on our website page.

Professional Development--Teachers Planning for RLD

The Diocese of Rockford, in concert with the Illinois State Board of Education, has set aside five days for teachers to plan for Remote Learning Days. SMS will be using two days on Friday, April 24th and Friday, May 1st at Planning for RLD days for teachers. Assignments for students will be adjusted to reflect four days in each of those weeks instead of five days.

Wednesday Mass with Father Bruce

Today's gospel message told the story of Jesus traveling with some Pharisees AFTER his crucifixion. They are unaware of who he really is until he stops to rest with them, breaks bread and makes himself known. They are astonished!! Each time we are at Mass, we are given the opportunity to "break bread" with Jesus and draw closer to Him as we enter more deeply into his Divine Mission for us. What a beautiful and hopeful message. Thank you Father Bruce!

Just a reminder that Father Bruce celebrates Mass every Wednesday at 10:00am and it is live streamed through the NFHS network on the Newman CCHS website.

Professional Development

Our teachers continue to attend virtual professional development sessions. Many are attending weekly webinars through the ROE. Today, they attended an online presentation on Google Classroom by Ben Sondgeroth, Learning Technology Center-Regional Educational Technology Coordinator. Ben is a Google Certified Level 1 and 2 Trainer, Apple Teacher, Apple Education Trainer.