



**Parent Newsletter**  
**April 29, 2020**

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

**8th Grade News and Dates**

May is typically a very busy month in school calendars! As this May approaches, however, the end to the school year will be very different. The special memories generated by graduation events will be altered, but we feel that it is important for the Class of 2020 to have the best memories we can create for them. To that end, I am excited to share the plans for our graduates with you.

1. **May Crowning on Friday, May 8th at 10:00am.**  
One eighth grade girl and one eighth grade boy will be selected by their classmates to place the traditional crown of flowers on our Blessed Mother. The only participants will be the graduates, their teachers, Father Keenan and me. We will meet at St. Mary's Church on the front steps. Father Keenan will offer a prayer in honor of Our Blessed Mother, Mary. Using social distancing rules and wearing masks, we will walk to the statue of Our Mother at the front of the school, where the coronation will take place. Everyone will say a prayer together.
2. **Eighth Grade Awards on Thursday, May 21st** through Google Meet with teachers. The traditional awards will be presented including Extracurricular Activities, Subjects, St. Timothy, Citizenship, and President's Awards for Excellence and Achievement. Time TBA
3. **Liturgy of the Word and Graduation Ceremony on May 22nd at 6:30pm in St. Mary's Church**

Last week, I reported that we selected June 26th as an alternate date for our 8th grade graduation Mass and ceremony. That date seems like a long way off for everyone. We feel that we want to keep the May 22nd graduation date for our Class of 2020. The plan will be somewhat altered. We will have a **private** Liturgy of the Word and Graduation Ceremony at 6:30pm in the church. This is not a Mass; there will be no communion. **Only graduates and their parents** (no siblings, no other relatives or friends) may attend. We will practice social distancing and wear masks if the order is still in effect. More information to follow.

### **6th and 7th Grade Awards**

Awards for students in sixth and seventh grades will be given during a Google Meet set up by their teachers. More information to follow.

### **Student Belongings**

Student belongings, including PE items, will be returned to families on **Friday, May 15th starting at 9:00am**. Keeping in mind the guidelines shared with us by the Diocese of Rockford, Whiteside County Health Department, Regional Office of Education 47, Illinois State Board of Education, and Illinois Association for School Administrators, we have created a schedule with a specific time and location for each grade level. It is an attachment to the SchoolSpeak email message, along with this Parent Newsletter.

### **Textbook Collection**

We will be collecting textbooks on **Friday, May 22nd with a similar schedule**. I will let you know the grade level schedule next week.

### **Professional Development--Teachers Planning for RLD**

Teacher Plan Days for Remote Learning are the following Fridays:

- May 1st, May 8th, May 15th, and May 22nd.
- An in-service for all teachers is scheduled for May 1st.

### **Registration for 2020-21**

Thank you to everyone who has sent in their registration fees and materials for 2020-21. Reduced fees for registration and books will continue through May 15th. After that date, fees will return to the regular rate. Please let us know if you need any additional registration packets and we will mail them to you.



## [Join in the May 1 Reconsecration of the United States](#)

Bishop David Malloy invites all Catholics in the Diocese of Rockford to join in prayer on May 1, for a brief liturgy and prayer to reconsecrate the United States to the Blessed Virgin Mary under her title of Mother of the Church. Archbishop Jose Gomez, of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops will lead the ceremony at 2 p.m. Central Time.

The school office is open on M,W, F from 8:30am until 2:00pm. Please let us know if we can assist you with registration for the 2020-21 school year. Please also let us know what your concerns or questions are.

Kathy Howard  
SMS Interim Principal