



2019-2020

Made for Greatness

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI – Encyclical Spe Salvi (Saved in Hope)

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March 13, 2020

Good afternoon,

It is day four of no school at Saint Charles and it seems like week four. We really do miss the kids and families so much. As people are dropping in to get assignments and drop off completed work, it is good just to smile and wave to them. Thank you to the so many people who have reached out to say thanks for all that the teachers are doing.

We still have Chromebooks or iPads available for those who might need them. Just come into the office during the "open hours" of 7:30-10am or 4-6:30pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Speaking of office hours, Saint Charles parish has changed it's office hours for the time being to 8am-6pm Monday through Friday and 8am-1pm on Saturday and Sunday.

I realize this is difficult on everyone. Part of the reason kids go to school is to learn to be social and develop friendships. Having no school is straining that innate need to be with others. Keep praying for the country - and the world - that this pandemic is over soon.

A word about assignments and due dates: Please do not stress your family out over these. We are doing our best to develop creative, authentic assignments. Thanks for your patience as we navigate a teaching experience for which we were never trained. If your child(ren) are struggling, take breaks, connect with the teacher, ask the teacher to call you. If your child(ren) cannot make a due date for an assignment (or several) - do not add stress to your lives. Take a half day or day away from school work and get back to it later. If you cannot get the work done in the prescribed time, that is OK. We have the due dates to help those who procrastinate to have an end date so they do not wait until the last minute and cram. It is not worth arguments or distressed relationships in a house where everyone is "stuck." The teachers and I understand. We are all doing our best. The mental and physical health of your entire family is the priority.

I am working with Parma City Schools and PSI in order to get services such as counseling, Title I support, and intervention services for the kids. Stay tuned on that front.

As far as spiritual support for your families, and in case you were unaware, there are a few churches in the Diocese of Cleveland that are live streaming Mass. I know that St. Raphael in Bay Village (<https://www.saintraphaelparish.com/164>) and St. Ambrose in Brunswick (<https://stambrose.us/watchmass/>) are live streaming daily and Sunday Masses. Fr. Chris at Saint Charles is also live streaming daily Mass, so I am guessing he will do the same for Sundays (<https://stcharlesonline.org/>). Attached is a prayer that can be said in place of receiving communion (spiritual communion).

As I mentioned, I do not want to inundate you with emails from me - but I do want to respond to questions and concerns. It seems that there is something new every day and it can be overwhelming. Be sure to take time away from the news and just have some fun family time.

Peace and prayers,

Eileen M. Updegrove