

March 22, 2020



Good afternoon,

I wanted to wait until the Governor held his press conference today to send communication to you.

As you probably heard, as of tomorrow, there is a "stay at home" order for all (except necessary workers and necessary errands for food and medicine) in Ohio until April 6. **In order to comply with this, we will not have you coming to school to get assignments.** We will mail home any new work that the teachers have created. The office will NOT be open as planned in the beginning of the pandemic.

The teachers and I are having a faculty meeting via Google Meet tomorrow. We will try to be as creative as we can and use our problem solving skills to develop activities for your kids and your families. The teachers at Saint Charles are intelligent and caring and we are blessed to have them!

The parish office will also be closed until April 6. We are doing closing these offices (school and parish) to help you to follow the new executive orders.

As I participated in Mass in my living room at home this morning, it was strange. My dog was on the couch and my dryer was buzzing because the load of laundry was done. I was also thinking about how great it must be for families to be able to celebrate being the domestic church while praying in such and intimate way with each other, yet with others throughout the state and the world. Please continue to pray together and for each other. I was talking with Fr. Terry Grachanin today about Holy Week and Easter Mass and he suggested how awesome it would be if the whole world would watch those Masses and services celebrated in Rome with the Holy Father. That could be so amazing!

For some "food for thought" during this time, I would recommend that parents download the app SoundCloud, search for Slaking Thirsts and find "Looking at the COVID19 Crisis Through the Father's Eyes" from Fr. Ryan Mann. It is about 20 minutes long, but it is well worth it. It was thought-provoking and gave me peace. It would be good for kids grade seven and up. It is definitely good for us adults.

Finally, I want to reiterate that your families' physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health are the priority. Do not worry about an assignment not getting done on time if that is causing tension in your home. No one wants that for anyone. We love you and we want you to have peace and be safe.

I will email more tomorrow after the teachers and I have our virtual meeting.

Take care of your families,

Eileen M. Updegrove