

# St. Mary Parish School



Challenging Minds

Developing Character

Living Jesus

## The Connection

April 9, 2020

Dear Families,

*How are you?* I cannot find the right words to express how much I miss seeing the students and all the laughter, enthusiasm, and noise they bring with them to school each day. It is way too quiet here and so strange not to be able to see and hear the children and you. I can't wait for the day when we can all come together again face-to-face!

I have to admit that I don't engage in social media much other than our school Facebook page, but one of my teacher's shared a post with me this morning that gave me pause. I do not know the origin of this message, so I apologize for not being able to give credit, but it is too profound not to share.

Something to think about...

- 40 days the flood lasted...
- 40 years the Exodus lasted...
- 40 days of fasting in the desert where Jesus was tempted...
- 40 days of appearances of Jesus after his crucifixion and resurrection...
- 40 days isolation "quarantine" has been called in many areas.
- Number 40 specifically in the Bible attracts much attention, even today.
- 40 days is what is recommend for a woman to rest after giving birth.
- 40 is the weeks of gestation.
- A group of theologians think that number 40 represents "change", it is the preparation time of a person or people to give fundamental change.
- Will something happen after these 40 days?
- Rivers are cleaning, vegetation is growing, air is clean due to less pollution, the starry sky in the evening is visible even where it was covered by pollution, less theft, less murders.
- The earth is on rest for first time in many years.
- I would like to take advantage of these 40 days.
- In the Bible, every time number 40 appears there is a "change."
- So, if we are in quarantine (obligated), let's enjoy it with family; it could be of great blessing, and we will see the changes God will make in our lives.
- If we add that we are in 2020 that equals 20 + 20 = 40, let it be what God wants in any event!
- The word quarantine is from Italian and means "a period of forty days".

Since all this started, I've been thinking a lot about Jesus' forty days in the desert. And I have to keep reminding myself, when I feel frustrated and overwhelmed, that what we are currently living through is nothing in comparison to what Jesus endured for us. As I was searching for some deeper meaning in all this craziness, I stumbled upon an article in the CBCP News that I would like to share with you. It is entitled, "[COVID-19 during Lent: The Challenge of Joining Jesus in the Desert](#)" and was written by Rev. Eutiquio Belizar, Jr., SThD. In the article, he says we should look at social distancing as "an invitation for us to more deeply join Jesus who socially distanced himself in the desert." While we are not physically in a desert, he encourages us to turn off the TV and social media to make time for silence and prayer reflecting on the words of St. Teresa of Ávila, "Nothing disturbs you, nothing frightens you, everything passes. God does not move, patience reaches everything, he who has God lacks nothing, only God suffices."

While we can't attend the Triduum celebrations in person, we can still worship by coming together virtually. Here are some direct links for your use:

- [Stations of the Cross](#) (led by some of our former 8<sup>th</sup> grade students)
- [Live streaming of the Mass of the Lord's supper](#) tonight at 7 PM
- [Live streaming of the Celebration of the Lord's Passion](#) at 3 PM, Good Friday
- [Live streaming of the Easter Vigil](#) at 8 PM, on Holy Saturday
- [Live streaming of Easter Sunday](#) at 8:00 (St. Mary & St. Anthony)
- [Holy Week services will also be broadcast on Channels 18 and 24.](#)

Many thanks to those of you who shared your thoughts about our updated virtual learning plan. From your positive comments it sounds like the changes have been well-received. Please keep reaching out, to let us know how things are going and if we can help in any way. [It is great to see all the pictures of the kids learning from home.](#) In a way, they help us stay connected with one another so please continue to share your pictures and videos. [Click here to read the updated virtual learning plan in full.](#)

Faithfully,  
Linda Joyner



**Scrip Update:** As long as the parish office is able to maintain open hours, Scrip will continue to be ordered. The next few processing days are April 20 and May 4. If you are paying by check, please make sure your check arrives at the parish office by 8:00 on the processing day. If you have a Scrip order to pick up, consider calling the parish office first (262-251-0220). Although the office is committed to being open regular hours, we know how quickly things can change. **St Mary's has decided to extend the Scrip processing year by one month, until May 31.** This means that you have until May 31, instead of April 30, to meet your fundraising requirement and earn rebates toward next year's tuition. Going forward, future Scrip earning periods will run from June 1 through May 31.

As always, PrestoPay and e-gift-cards are a great way to earn Scrip without leaving the house. Be safe!



## Virtual Classroom News

**Extracting your DNA from home.** Since we can't do science labs at school, why not try them at home. The 8th graders kicked off their genetics unit by attempting to extract the DNA from strawberries or their very own cheek cells. The 8th graders recorded a video of themselves and shared it with me, so I could see their attempts at DNA extraction.

[Watch Jesse](#)

**Sixth Graders learned about thermal (heat) energy.** A lot of what we learn about has to do with what the molecules are doing in a substance when they are heated or cooled. Since we can't see molecules, why not use a marshmallow or balloon to help understand what is happening. The 6th graders did an at-home lab where they used heat to expand a marshmallow or balloon. Then, they had to video their explanation of what the molecules were doing inside the marshmallow or balloon when heated.

[Watch Emme](#)

[Watch Jackson](#)

**Forensics Finale:** Forensics is an extra-curricular activity offered to students in 6th, 7th & 8th grade. The purpose of middle school forensics is to build self-confidence and oral competency by developing and practicing fundamental public speaking skills.



[Read More](#)

**PACKET DROP OFF UPDATE:** Our next pickup/dropoff for learning packets will be on Friday, April 17 (12:00 pm – 3:30 pm) and Monday, April 20 (7:30 am – 12:00 pm).

### Got some spare time on your hands? Thinking about cleaning out your closets?

The Pack'er Up—Donation Challenge **has been postponed** until the Store reopens. Save those items until then.

**2020 Calendar Raffle:** Congratulations to these \$30 raffle winners drawn on April 8, 2020: **Geri Gonwa, Amber Minue, Cathy Jahn and the Sikorski Family.**

Thank you all for your participation and support!

### APRIL 2020

- 9 Holy Thursday
  - [Live Stream from St. Mary's](#)
  - [Live Stream from the Cathedral](#)
- 10 Good Friday, NO SCHOOL
  - [STATIONS OF THE CROSS](#)
  - [Live Stream from St. Mary's](#)
  - [Live Stream from the Cathedral](#)
- 11 Holy Saturday
  - [Live Stream from St. Mary's](#)
  - [Live Stream from the Cathedral](#)
- 12 EASTER SUNDAY
  - [Live Stream from St. Mary's](#)
  - [Live Stream from the Cathedral](#)
- 13 Easter Monday, NO SCHOOL
- 14 Virtual Learning resumes
- 17 Packet drop-off/pick-up

### Links

- [Virtual Learning Update](#)
- [Msgr. Shecterle's Easter Message](#)
- [Something to Think About](#)
- [2020-21 Academic Calendar](#)

### 9 tips for parents navigating learning with their children due to the Coronavirus



### Links

- [Live Stream St. Mary Masses](#)
- [Live Stream Masses from the Cathedral](#)
- [School Website](#)
- [Parish Website](#)
- [News from the Parish](#)
- [St. Mary Facebook](#)
- [Amazon Smile](#)
- [Shoparoo](#)
- [SCRIP update](#)

