

From the Principal's Desk

April 2, 2020

Quick Links

[School Site](#)

[School Calendar](#)



Holy Spirit School *Inspiring Minds / Igniting Hearts* 2019 / 2020

"What you do for the least among you, you do for Jesus"

A Letter from Father O'Donohue

Dear Parents, Students, and all Members of our Holy Spirit School community,

It has been three weeks since I last saw most of you. None of us began this school year with any idea that we would be finishing it this way. I've heard Mrs. Ashby say, "I must have missed that day in college when they taught us how to principal and teach in a time of pandemic." I think this applies to how to parent, how to pastor, etc. as well. Yet here we are, three weeks into this new regimen.

I cannot exaggerate how impressed I have been by our faculty's and staff's swift changeover from us being a brick and mortar school to becoming a "virtual school." I know the stresses and demands of this on all involved (teachers, parents, students) has been unavoidably intense. Yet we are called by God and by our responsibility to each other to do the best we can, and you are doing that. I'm sure on some days and in some cases the oft quoted words of St. Teresa of Calcutta apply: "God has not called me to be successful; He has called me to be faithful." May God bless you all and continue to give you the grace you need to do His holy will each day. Lord, "give us this day our daily bread."

As for myself, I too am making the best of things in your absence. I'm still looking for my bouncy balls that Mrs. Payne has hidden in and outside the

school. Lots of time for that (*too much* time). But I need the time because her clues are the opposite of helpful and my 4th grade helpers are dearly missed. (Never fear, fellow Alliance members. I will triumph in the end!) Mrs. Ashby, Mrs. Evans, and Mrs. Laclede are the only staff members I regularly see anymore. The bright spot in this is that, now that people like Adam and Griffin and John Rivera are no longer competitors, I am definitely the fastest in the school. It's been three weeks since I've lost a hallway race. So that's good. And, O yes, one more thing: if any of you run across Mrs. Barger or Mrs. Hoagland, kindly tell them that their lunch carts do not belong in the gym.

It will be three months from when our regular school routine was suspended (March 12) to when the school year was originally scheduled to end (June 12). Boot camp at Parris Island for me lasted three months. Those three months left an indelible mark for the good on me. Three months is a long enough time for habits to become lasting ones. May this demanding and challenging time be well used by us to grow in virtues (good habits) and not in vice (bad habits). God does not always let us have things be the way we would want them to be; but God always wants what is good for us. We may have to search for it, we may have to wait to discover what or how it is, but we can be absolutely confident that this school year is all for the best for each and every one of us-if we continue to do our part to make the most of it.

As we approach Holy Week, as we see the good that comes from the Cross, I keep you all in my prayers. In a special way I do this for our second graders, whose First Holy Communion will be delayed, and for our 8th graders, who are missing out on their final months together in our school. But I do pray for all of you. May we go into Holy Week embracing with Christ God's holy will.

In Christ, Who suffered and died for us,

Fr. John O'Donohue

Holy Week

Our Lenten journey is almost at a close as we move into Holy Week. I prayerfully hope that you will take time as a family to participate in an online/televised Mass on Sunday so that you can experience together the beautiful readings for Palm Sunday.

I mentioned last week that I have been participating in Dynamic Catholic's Best Lent Ever! series and today's reflection I think is a perfect echo of Father's words above. Today's society tells us that we should be in control of all things at all times. And yet, if we sat with paper and pencil and made a list of the things we were actually completely in control of, that list would be amazingly short. I would suggest over this coming Holy Week that we all reflect on the question of how much have we surrendered ourselves to

God? There is wisdom in hearing/experiencing the invitation of God to NOT control but to surrender completely. With that surrender comes peace.

Easter Break

Yes! We are having Easter break. Our break will begin on Thursday, April 9th, Holy Thursday. Traditionally the 8th grade students have presented the Living Stations to us that morning. In the absence of that, we will have something for you from us in which you can participate as a family.

The break will continue through Monday, April 20th. Instruction will begin anew on Tuesday, April 21st.

Letter from the Superintendent

Attached to this newsletter is a communication from Dr. Joseph Vorbach, Superintendent of Catholic Schools.

In his letter, Dr. Vorbach lays out three important items for all of the Diocesan schools:

- * We will continue to follow the existing 2019-2020 academic year calendar.
- * Students will be learning new material and grades will be recorded to capture individual student progress.
- * Emphasis will be on learning essential concepts.

Please read Dr. Vorbach's full letter for all details.

As a faculty we continue to look at the presentation and scope of material.

[Superintendent's Letter to Parents](#)

Use of Video Conferencing

In the vein, faculty will begin, in very limited ways, to make use of video conferencing. This may entail the use of more than one platform as we seek to make this a safe, but useful experience for both students and faculty.

Attached to this newsletter is a letter requesting that you provide permission for your student(s) to participate in these video conferences.

Please note that these will not be used to provide direct instruction at specific times but instead will be used as times for Q&As with teachers and for some general interactions between teachers and students. These are not individual video conferences.

If you choose not to have your student(s) participate, that is completely fine and is left to your discretion.

[Video Conferencing - Parental Permission](#)

#Somethingtochalkabout

The Office of Catholic Schools is rolling out a social media campaign to encourage creativity and remind us of the gift of God's love.

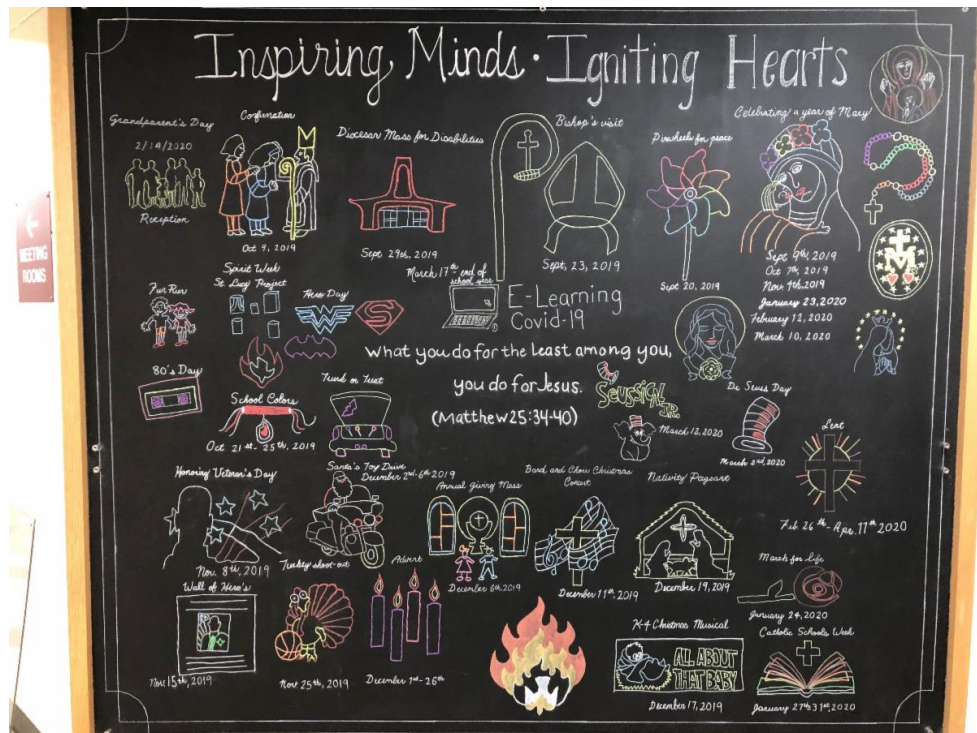
The challenge is for students, teachers, parents to test their skills with chalk and create a picture or message that is inspirational and gives us #SOMETHINGTOCHALKABOUT.

It could be school-related (logo, mascot), Faith related (God's love, religious art, scripture passage) or just motivational.

We would love to flood our social media platforms with awesome words, messages, and pictures from our students and families.

If you create something, snap a picture and send it along to your teacher, who will make sure it ends up in the right electronic "box" to be included.

Yesterday, we pushed out Mrs. Liss's amazing hallway chalk art which is a timeline of many of the awesome events we have had over the year.



members. We would LOVE for you to contribute pictures that can be considered for use in this annual memory book. If you would like to contribute pictures of the varied ways your family is tackling distance learning, please email them to Yearbook@holyspiritflames.org.

The deadline for 2020-2021 elementary FACTS Grant & Aid applications has been extended to Friday, April 17, 2020. Families are encouraged to submit as soon as they are able in advance of that deadline. In addition, families should know that applications received after the new deadline in April will be considered on an as-available basis determined by any remaining available funds.

-Maureen Ashby

Principal

YES!
**We are still planning/working on the
yearbook!**



OH SNAP!

The 2020 yearbook is in need of some photos and stories to help us finish! We want to know

“How do you homeschool?”

Parents, please share any photos and/or stories of your students during this time away and let us know what you’ve been up to!

You can send via email at

Yearbook@holyspiritflames.org

We look forward to hearing from everyone and can’t wait to see what our students have been up to!



YEARBOOKS

\$21

HAVEN'T ORDERED A YEARBOOK YET?

ORDER ONLINE TODAY!

www.YBPay.Lifetouch.com

Yearbook ID: 11439520

DEADLINE IS APRIL 17TH



Help Holy Spirit Girl Scout
Troop 55018
with the Thank-You Initiative!

What can you do?

- Make 10+ Thank You Notes
- Have Parents share notes with essential workers like:
 - Grocery employees
 - Restaurants employees
 - Hospitals workers



Our Troop would love to have the whole school participate in the Thank-You Initiative!

If you participate, could you let us know?

Card Counter!
