



St. Mary Catholic Schools
Grades P3-12

A Community Inspiring Success

*Preparing and inspiring students to lead meaningful lives,
rooted in the teachings of Christ in our Catholic tradition.*

April 9, 2020

Greetings to Families, Staff, and Friends of St. Mary Catholic Schools,

We are living in one of the most critical times faced in recent history. This crisis has disrupted almost every facet of our life, and so many of the things that we have taken for granted in our community. In particular, we know that many are anxious about their financial situation in light of closures, layoffs, and fallout in the broader economy.

I would like to provide reassurance to our families who might find themselves suddenly out of work, or facing reduced work hours. During this difficult period, we will make every effort to ensure that students will not need to leave our schools because of financial worries. Families, please contact us if you have concerns about your personal situation, and we will work with you moving forward.

Among the earliest entities impacted by social distancing restrictions have been our parishes. Their ministry to families and the vulnerable is more essential than ever, but their primary support - namely, the weekly collection at Mass - has been eliminated. The generosity of parishioners makes possible our mission at St. Mary Catholic Schools, including the salaries of our faculty and staff, who continue to teach and work to fulfill our school's mission.

Our parish community needs us now more than ever. Just like in our own homes, bills continue to come in for our parishes. If you have the ability to give, please consider supporting our parishes as they support St. Mary Catholic Schools. If you are not an electronic giver, please consider enrolling in automatic withdrawal. You may also use an online option, or mail in or drop off your gifts if you are able. More importantly, please remember parish members, pastors, and staff in your family's prayers. It is through unity in the face of hardship that will help to carry us through the time ahead.

As Catholics, we gather. Being in each other's presence in the presence of God is who we are. It is particularly difficult during Holy Week, not to be able to gather in person. As we seek alternatives for worship, I invite you to visit Jane's Woods on our main campus. The paths are clear and ready for travel. Walk the Stations of the Cross, pray a rosary, or just pause on one of the many benches and reflect upon the beauty of nature and the serenity of the woods.

I also encourage you to use the parish websites to stay spiritually connected and for opportunities such as live stream (or recorded) Mass, adoration, Stations of the Cross and rosary.

[St. Patrick's](#)
[St. Margaret Mary](#)
[St. Mary/St. John](#)
[St. Gabriel](#)

Thank you for your ongoing commitment and creativity in responding to this moment in our history; the prayers, words, and actions we employ now will define us for future generations. These times require great partnership, faith and love that take us beyond our fears and anxieties. It is time for us to be not afraid as we care for each other, our parishes, and our schools. Together we are stronger!

Happy Easter and God bless!

Helen Englebert

Helen Englebert
SMCS President

"Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."
Teresa of Avila
