



April 6, 2020

MONDAY MORNING ASSEMBLY HOLY WEEK

Good morning!

As we enter into Holy Week, trust you and your family are well. I continue to be proud of our St. Paul community in the way we have responded to this global health crisis. You've been inspiring!

Yesterday was Palm Sunday marking the beginning of Holy Week for Christians around the world. Pope Francis acknowledged that Christians will celebrate Holy Week this year "in a truly unusual way" but the message of Holy Week does not change ... it is one of hope nourished by our faith. "It is the hope of a better time, finally freed from evil and from this pandemic. Hope does not disappoint, it is not an illusion." The Pope emphasized, "In the silence of our cities, the Easter Gospel will resound. In the risen Jesus, life conquered death."

MORNING PRAYER

*"Jesus took bread, said the blessing,
broke it, and giving it to his disciples said,
"Take and eat; this is my body."
Then he took a cup, gave thanks and gave it
to them, saying,
"Drink from it, all of you,
for this is my blood of the covenant,
which will be shed on behalf of many
for the forgiveness of sins.""*

(Matthew 26)

Jesus, you gave us your body and blood so that we may all be saved from sin. Help us to remember to always give of ourselves as we seek and grant forgiveness in our imperfect lives. Amen.

We hear these words often during the Eucharistic celebration but this week they take on added significance. Take a moment, open your heart, slowly reread and reflect upon this passage from the Gospel of Matthew.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- Join Fr. Hector and St. Paul students by video this Wednesday (4/8) at 10:30 am as we celebrate our **Mass for Holy Week**. While we won't be together physically at St. Gregory the Great Church, we will be spiritually in the comfort of our St. Paul chapel and your homes. Allow Jesus Christ to enter into your hearts giving you renewed peace, hope and love during this pandemic crisis. The Mass video will be available on Wednesday morning.
- Sr. Marie Benedict and Sr. Mary Mercy will lead a **Holy Thursday Chapel Prayer Service** at a special time on Thursday (4/9) at 9:00 am. This is an opportunity for building community, praying together, and growing in our faith, in union with Christ's Paschal Mystery. Faculty, students and parents wishing to participate can respond to the weekly Zoom invitation to join the prayer service.
- *"Keep watch ... do not fall asleep."* Invite your family to participate in the **Archdiocese of Hartford's (ORTV) Holy Week Triduum** celebrated in English by Archbishop Blair and in Spanish by Bishop Betancourt.
 - Holy Thursday - Mass of the Lord's Supper on WCCT at 7:00 pm
 - Good Friday - Stations of the Cross on WCCT & WCTX at 10:00 am and Passion of the Lord Liturgy on WCCT at 3:00 pm
 - Holy Saturday - Prayer Service on WCCT & WCTX at 10:00 am and Easter Vigil Mass in the Holy Night on WCCT at 7:00 pm
 - Easter Sunday - Mass on WCCT at 5:00 am, WCCT & WCTX at 10:00 am and WTIC Fox 61 at noon

ACADEMICS

- **IMPORTANT:** As previously announced, the end of the Third Quarter was extended to this Thursday, April 9. Students are strongly encouraged to check their portal or ask their teachers if they need to make-up any quizzes or tests missed prior to March 13, when school was officially closed. If you do, please contact your school counselor to schedule a time this week to complete make-up work online. Also, you are responsible for any missed work during distance learning. Failure to complete any missed work may result in an incomplete grade. **DO NOT DELAY** in taking personal responsibility for your third marking period grades.
- **Special Holy Week Schedule:** Monday (4/6) and Tuesday (4/7) this week will be regular instructional classes. Wednesday (4/8) will be a special review schedule (see below) for all classes. Teachers will review essential course material to make sure each online class is in a good place before we break for the holiday/vacation. Students are expected to attend each review class and are encouraged to watch the video Mass for Holy Week at 10:30 am.

Schedule for Wednesday, April 8, 2020
Mass for Holy Week, Distance Learning Schedule

7:57-8:31	Period A
8:35-9:09	Period B
9:13-9:47	Period C
9:51-10:25	Period D
10:30-11:20	<i>Mass for Holy Week</i>
11:25-11:59	Period E
12:02-12:24	Lunch
12:28-1:00	Period F
1:04-1:36	Period G
1:40-2:12	Period H

Thursday (4/9) is a scheduled noon dismissal. There will be no academic classes. Instead, we will use this morning as additional make-up quiz/test time for the third marking period. **To avoid an incomplete grade on your Third Quarter report card, all make-up work is due by this Thursday, April 9 at noon.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Student Government met last Thursday and has scheduled one after-school activity for this week and one during spring vacation. Again, my thanks for their involvement in planning these and other activities to be announced in the future. If interested in participating in either of these events, be on the lookout for a Zoom invitation email from Mrs. Kendrick.
 - **Cooking with Stella** on Tuesday (4/7) from 3:30 – 4:00 pm. Stop in and say hello to Stella as she provides a virtual cooking class.
 - **Vacation Family Trivia** on Thursday (4/16) at 3:30 pm. Break up your vacation with a little trivia competition. Gift card prizes awarded.
- This Wednesday (4/8) will be the second in our **Perspectives from the “Classroom”** series featuring a distance learning reflective piece from one of our faculty members. This week, we will feature Sr. Mary Mercy Lee, FSE.
- **Zoom Sewing Club** will meet Wednesday (4/8) at 7:00 pm. This virtual meeting is open to students, faculty and parents. It will center on **making medical masks** for our local healthcare providers, including SP parents and alumni. If you plan to attend, you can pick up supplies at the school Annex rear porch (adjacent former convent building, access sidewalk off auditorium side driveway), prior to the meeting. Participants also should open this [Google doc](#) for the pattern and more. Can't make the meeting, no worries, a recording will be saved on e-campus. Be on the lookout for a Zoom invitation email from Mrs. Zillich.
- *“Hats off”* to the winner, Julia Marchak, of Friday’s **Crazy Hat** contest. Dylan Bird, Will Kurnick, Nicole Murzyn, Aiden Staus, Riley Wagner, Sydney Wagner and Adam Zwolinski tied for second place. Honorable mention goes to Lila Alderete, Will Barton, Elenor Bryda, Amanda Cansdale, Joe DiBiaso, Carter Dossias, Michael Ferrero, Adam Houle, Julianne Jalbert, Will Lyder, Thomas Pauloz, Joe Rediker and Matt Sefcik.

- **Happy Birthday** this week to: Joshua Cofrancesco, Zachary DelVecchia, Kelsi Blatchey, Sydney Wagner, Mary Melvin and MacKenzi Baxter. Birthday wishes next week go to Megan Fortier and Erik Swanson.

GUIDANCE

- Seniors should check any college's website that you are interested in attending ... many schools are hosting virtual accepted student's days, info sessions and testimonials from current students. Although most colleges have pushed their deposit deadlines out ... please let your school counselor know if you need help in making a decision!
- If seniors need transcripts for scholarship applications, please email Mrs. Kilbourne at lkilbourne@spchs.com.
- Juniors need to ask two teachers for letters of recommendation by email before 4/30. They should copy their counselor on the email and make sure to give the teacher their resume and reflection form. The reflection form was included in an email sent out by guidance on Wednesday (3/25).
- All students should schedule ASAP a time to make-up third marking period quizzes/tests with your school counselor. They will be scheduled this week on a first-come, first serve basis.

ATHLETICS

- The CIAC continues to stand behind the possibility of a spring sports season, if it is safe. See the attached statement from the CIAC Board of Control meeting on April 2nd <http://www.casciac.org/pdfs/CIACCOVID-19April2,2020Update.pdf>.
- Mr. Dennehy will be hosting a **Zoom Athletic Meeting** today, Monday, April 6 at 2:30 pm for any interested student-athletes to discuss the current status of the spring sports season. Be on the lookout for a Zoom invitation email later this morning. Feel free to send any questions you have ahead of time by emailing Mr. Dennehy at ddennehy@spchs.com.
- Reference is made to the athletic section of the school website for home workouts from Coach Joe & specific spring team training info from coaches.
- Congratulations to Kailyn Bielecki, Janessa Gonzalez, Olivia Heslin and Jade Udol who were selected to the All-Bristol Press Girls Basketball Team. Selected to the All-Bristol Press Boys Basketball Team were A.J. Brooks, Jack Noli and Noah Waters.
- A friendly reminder that we've been advised that all of our athletic facilities including fields be closed to student-athletes during this health crisis.

PERFORMING ARTS

- Over 36 students from the cast and crew of our spring musical, **Matilda**, assembled for a two-hour Zoom event on Friday night for what would have been "**Opening Night.**" They celebrated their work together and also honored our seniors with many students sharing their thoughts and stories. Mr. Mazzarella shared a short version of the Matilda rehearsal highlights. There were lots of laughs and lots of tears. Matilda has been postponed indefinitely with a decision to reschedule pending an announcement of when we will be returning to school.

FINAL THOUGHT

In listening to the health experts, it appears the next two weeks may be the most painful in spiking positive cases of COVID-19 and loss of life in our country. I can't stress enough how important it is for you to continue to practice social distancing guidelines, wash your hands frequently, and keep your hands away from your face to avoid the spread of this deadly virus to yourself, your family and friends.

PRAY for the doctors, nurses, and healthcare professionals, many of them our parents, relatives, and alumni who serve as the front line of defense putting their own life in harm's way while going into "battle" every day to care for those afflicted by this deadly disease. They not only are the caregivers but also serve as surrogate family members to those isolated in the hospitals, nursing and convalescent homes. **PRAY** for emergency and military personnel, scientists searching for a cure, truck drivers and grocery store workers who keep the food supply chain going. There are many other everyday ordinary people doing extraordinary works of mercy and kindness, all of them unsung heroes. ***Thank you!***

Let it go ... leave our fears, our worries, our struggles, our complaints, our self-centeredness at the foot of the cross this week. Continue to be grateful, motivated and make positive choices. The majority of you are doing just that. But it really takes all of us to say we are doing that to actually **BE GREAT** in the face of this challenging adversity. This is no time for immature, irresponsible or lazy behavior. Just the opposite, this is the time for all of us to step it up too ... so I'll ask you, did you "***make your bed***" this morning? We are in this together and together, we will get through this!

FR. HECTOR'S FINAL BLESSING

Peace in Christ Our Lord,

At the beginning of the Most Holy Week of the year, I would like to share with you dear Saint Paul's family some thoughts from His Holiness Pope Francis that he said during the prayer just before he concluded Palm Sunday 2020. He is thinking about you teachers, students and parents.

"Dear friends, good evening!

This evening I have the chance to enter your homes in a different way than usual. If you allow me, I would like to have a conversation with you for a few moments, in this time of difficulty and of suffering. I can imagine you in your families, living an unusual life to avoid contagion. I am thinking of the liveliness of children and young people, who cannot go out, attend school, live their lives. I have in my heart all the families, especially those who have a loved one who is sick or who have unfortunately experienced mourning due to the coronavirus or other causes. These days I often think about people who are alone, and for whom it is more difficult to face these moments. Above all I think of the elderly, who are very dear to me.

I cannot forget those who are sick with coronavirus, people who are in hospital. I am aware of the generosity of those who put themselves at risk for the treatment of this pandemic or to guarantee the essential services to society. So many heroes, every day, at every hour! I also remember how many are in financial straits and are worried about work and the future. A thought also goes out to prison inmates, whose pain is compounded by fear of the epidemic, for themselves and their loved ones; I think of the homeless, who do not have a home to protect them.

Let us try, if we can, to make the best use of this time: let us be generous; let us help those in need in our neighborhood; let us look out for the loneliest people, perhaps by telephone or social networks; let us pray to the Lord for those who are in difficulty in Italy and in the world. Even if we are isolated, thought and spirit can go far with the creativity of love. This is what we need today: the creativity of love.

We will celebrate Holy Week in a truly unusual way, which manifests and sums up the message of the Gospel, that of God's boundless love. And in the silence of our cities, the Easter Gospel will resound. The Apostle Paul says: "And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him Who died for them and was raised again" (2 Cor 5:15). In the risen Jesus, life conquered death. This Paschal faith nourishes our hope.

It is the hope of a better time, in which we can be better, finally freed from evil and from this pandemic. It is a hope: hope does not disappoint; it is not an illusion, it is a hope. Beside each other, in love and patience, we can prepare a better time in these days. Thank you for allowing me into your homes. Make a gesture of tenderness towards those who suffer, towards children, and towards the elderly. Tell them that the Pope is close and pray, that the Lord will soon deliver us all from evil. And you, pray for me. Have a good dinner. See you soon!"

Pope Francis, April 5 2020.

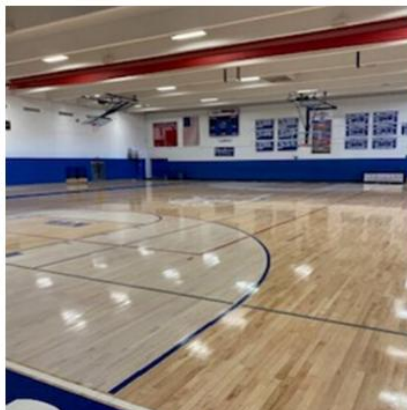
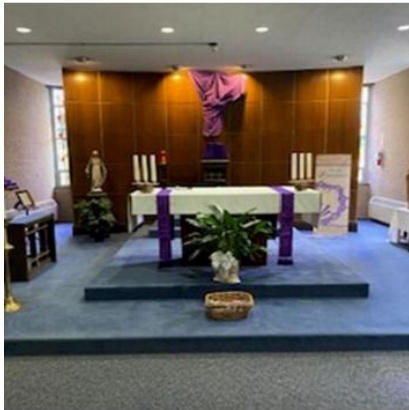
Let's Pray,

Almighty and everlasting God,
who in your tender love towards the human race
sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ
to take upon him our flesh
and to suffer death upon the cross:
grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility,
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Lord be with you, and with you spirit,
+May almighty God Bless you,
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

St. Paul, pray for us!

*Whenever the time comes, your campus is waiting for your return ... **we miss you!***



By his wounds, we are healed. Seniors, lead us out of here to your online classes. Take care of yourselves and pray for each other.

Stay safe ... be well.

Mr. Dupont '72
President/Chief Administrator