



April 20, 2020

MONDAY MORNING ASSEMBLY

"Blessed are those who have not seen, yet have come to believe."

(John 20:29)

Good morning!

Welcome back! Trust you and your family are well and that you had a relaxing spring vacation. As stated previously, I am proud of our St. Paul community in the way we have responded to this global health crisis. As you know, on the day we left for our Easter holiday, Governor Lamont further extended school closures in Connecticut until at least May 20, thus bringing us today to the next phase of our distance learning plan. More on this in a minute, let us first begin this day in prayer.

MORNING PRAYER

Yesterday the Catholic Church celebrated Divine Mercy Sunday ... a reminder that Jesus Christ is the fountain of mercy and forgiveness. In the gospel reading, Jesus invites us to live a life of peace called to embrace with faith the challenges and sacrifices that come today with this pandemic and sheltering at home. He says three times, *"Peace be with you"* when he greets His disciples for the first time since His Resurrection. Similarly, we are called to encounter and treat those around us with that same message.

We **PRAY** for the doctors, nurses, and healthcare professionals, many of them our parents, relatives, and alumni who serve as the front line of defense and put their own life in harm's way to care for those afflicted by this deadly disease. We **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. We **PRAY** for your personal intentions in the silence of your hearts.

God of everlasting mercy, who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast kindle the faith of the people you have made your own, increase, we pray, the grace of your bestowal, that all may grasp and rightly

understand in what font they have been washed, by whose Spirit they have been reborn, and by whose Blood they have been redeemed. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

St. Paul, pray for us!

At the invitation of Sr. Marie Benedict and Sr. Mary Mercy, I am pleased to announce that **Bishop Loverde**, former ordinary of the Diocese of Arlington and former auxiliary bishop in our own Archdiocese of Hartford has agreed to Zoom "visit" Senior classes. We anticipate that Bishop Loverde will share his own vocation journey (as a son of Connecticut, from the Norwich Diocese) and service to the Church. He may also address religious content relevant to the curricula of our Senior class. We welcome Bishop Loverde to St. Paul.

DISTANCE LEARNING PHASE II

Phase I of our distance learning initiative was designed to be implemented from March 13 when the Governor initially closed schools in Connecticut until March 27. He later announced a tentative reopening on April 20. Thus, the decision was made to extend the Third Marking Period until April 9 when we left for our Easter holiday and spring vacation.

Phase I focused on transitioning and engaging St. Paul students and faculty members online utilizing the Zoom app, thereby creating an educational experience that was as "normal" as possible given the unprecedented circumstances we faced. We recognized that it was not the same as in-person learning but that it did provide the desired opportunity for daily classmate and teacher interaction. We believe, that together, we successfully accomplished this initial objective. We remain most grateful to everyone for your patience, flexibility and commitment to the learning process during the last month.

Today, we begin Phase II. With the Governor's most recent announcement that Connecticut schools will remain closed until at least May 20, we have evaluated Phase I and have taken into consideration feedback from students and faculty in moving forward from here. We will implement Phase II with a modified class schedule in anticipation that it will provide the needed teaching and learning flexibility to navigate the next month especially recognizing five-day weeks with more frequent and creative assessments as we begin the Fourth Marking Period.

The expectation of our students remains the same. **Students need to prepare and attend classes consistently, logging in on time and dressed appropriately.** The revised Phase II schedule is below.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday will continue as a typical Day 1 schedule with A Period beginning at 7:57 am and H Period ending at 2:12 pm. Tuesday and Thursday will be a modified class schedule as follows:

TUESDAY

9:00 – 9:40 AM	A Period
10:00 – 10:40 AM	B Period
11:00 – 11:40 AM	C Period
12:00 – 12:40 PM	D Period

THURSDAY

9:00 – 9:40 AM	E Period
10:00 – 10:40 AM	F Period
11:00 – 11:40 AM	G Period
12:00 – 12:40 PM	H Period

This academic plan only works if you commit to being in partnership with the school and take responsibility in attending your classes on time especially on these modified days. No excuses that you forgot! The expectation is that this schedule will give you additional time “outside of class” to keep up with your school work or make up missed quizzes/tests in a timely manner. However, this will only happen with good time management and a commitment not to procrastinate. We will NOT be extending the time at the end of the Fourth Marking Period, without an approved excuse, for work to be made up.

Continue to be optimistic, grateful, motivated and make positive choices. The majority of you are doing just that. But it really takes all of us. As I’ve said before, this is no time for immature, irresponsible or lazy behavior. Just the opposite, this is the time for all of us to dig deep within ourselves and step it up. We are in this together and together, we will get through this!

ACADEMICS

Today, we begin the Fourth Marking Period. Students were strongly encouraged to make-up any quizzes or tests missed in the Third Marking Period prior to leaving for our Easter holiday. The majority of students completed their responsibilities. **However, if you did not, you have until April 30 to contact your school counselor to schedule a time to complete make-up work online. At that point, any outstanding quizzes or tests will become a zero in the teacher’s grade book. Any unfinished projects and papers will result in an incomplete grade in that class for the Third Marking Period.**

CONGRATULATIONS to the following Seniors who were recently announced as the recipients of the **Archdiocesan Summa Scholars Award**: Cassandra Dubitsky, Seokhym “Stevan” Hong, Sarah Lynch, Natalie Millerick, Thomas Pauloz, and Jeremy Rinaldi. These students academically represent the Top 5% of their graduating class. Unfortunately, the Summa ceremony and reception was postponed due to COVID-19 but St. Paul will publicly distribute the certificates and medallions and recognize their honored teachers at an appropriate time.

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who were notified during spring vacation of their acceptance into the **Saint Pope John XXIII Chapter of the National Honor Society**: Amelia Badzioch, Olivia Belfonti, Gabrielle Castonguay, Ana Maria Cawley, Isabella Crowley, Katherine Darragjati, Reagan Davis, Carter Dossias, Keira Dubitsky, Gabriel Duncan, Kailey Fontaine, Matthew Grinvalsky, Nicholas Grinvalsky, Liam Kelly, Daniel Kozmon, Anna Kretsch, Madeline Kurnik, Jovanna LaFleur, Sarah Lindquist, Abigail MacAllister, Matthew Maglio, Greta Panke, Madison Matava-Pickering, Devin Meurer, Samantha Millerick, Samantha Naples, Nhu Nguyen, Adriana Raymond, Scott Ryder Raymond, Emily Shanahan, Gillian Smith, Sofia Stephani, Alexis Tierpack, Riley Wagner, Catherine Wootton and Abigail Wroblewski.

NHS officers for the 2020-2021 school year have been announced: President, Romi Bagdasarian; Vice President, Colin Ivers; Secretary, Emma Schatz and Treasurer, Christopher Millerick. These officers and

students will be formally recognized at an NHS ceremony/reception to be rescheduled for the Fall 2020. The newly elected officers will give the speeches on the four pillars of the NHS.

CONGRATULATIONS to Amani David and Catharine Roberge selected as this year's **Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) Outstanding Arts Award** and to Natalie Millerick and Jeremy Rinaldi selected as the **CAS-CIAC Scholar Athlete Award** recipients. Unfortunately, the respective award dinners at the Aqua Turf were cancelled due to COVID-19 but St. Paul will publicly distribute their certificates at an appropriate time.

CONGRATULATIONS to Emma Schatz who met the requirements to enter the **2021 National Merit Scholarship Program** based upon her high performance on the 2019 PSAT qualifying test.

CONGRATULATIONS St. Paul joined thousands of students throughout the country in taking the **National Latin Exam**. This year, St. Paul students who earned recognition for their performance are as follows.

- Gold "Summa Cum Laude" certificate: Andrew Pauloz '21;
- Silver "Maxima Cum Laude" certificate: Ryder Raymond '22, Olivia Belfonti '22; Marley Burgess '23, Cody Jones '23;
- "Magna Cum Laude" certificate: Richard Scott '21, Colin Ivers '21, Riley Wagner '22, Anna Kretsch '22;
- "Cum Laude" certificate: Jennavieve Boucher '21, Caleigh McDougall '21, Madelynn Kunze '21, Amelia Badzioch '22, and Christian Schuler '22.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

- Online **AP Exams** have been rescheduled for May 11 -22, 2020. AP students have been notified by the College Board and their teachers of this change. See attached link for additional pertinent information. <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/exam-dates-and-fees>
- The **Academic Awards Night** program scheduled for Wednesday, May 15 will be postponed to a later date depending on COVID-19 social distancing guidelines.
- Due to COVID-19 and a conflict with the revised AP exam dates, a decision has been made to waive **Senior final exams** originally scheduled for May 19 – 22. **The last instructional day for Seniors will be Friday, May 22.** In addition, the **Community Service** hours for Seniors to meet graduation requirements will also be waived for this year.
- While the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, the **Baccalaureate Liturgy (Senior Class Mass** on Monday, June 1 at St. Gregory the Great Church at 7:00 pm celebrated by Archbishop Blair) and the **Class of 2020 Commencement Exercises** (Tuesday, June 2 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Hartford at 6:00 pm) remain on the school calendar. Depending on Governor Lamont's pending announcement for reopening Connecticut, a final decision on these events will be made by the Archdiocese of Hartford by May 19. The decision will be consistent for all four Archdiocesan High Schools: East Catholic High School, Manchester; Northwest Catholic High School, West Hartford, Sacred Heart High School, Waterbury and St. Paul Catholic High School, Bristol.

- Similarly, **Senior Week** events (i.e. Class Picnic, Athletic Banquet, Class Night, Prom) remain on the school calendar but are subject to change. We are in conversations with all of the respective venues and final decisions will be communicated by May 19.
- **The last day of school for Grades 9 -11 will be Friday, June 12.** Modified final exams will be held from June 9 – 12. Community Service requirements will be modified for this year, as well. Specifics will be announced at a later date.

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 with your decision!
- If seniors need transcripts for scholarship applications, please email Mrs. Kilbourne at lkilbourne@spchs.com.
- Juniors should remember they 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).

ATHLETICS

- The CIAC has been communicating with the NCAA eligibility center to understand how initial student-athlete eligibility may be impacted by COVID-19. The NCAA has been very responsive and has recently published an update to initial eligibility. See link. <http://www.casciac.org/pdfs/NCAAInitialEligibilityCOVID-19Update.pdf>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Student Government has scheduled two Zoom afterschool activities for this week. If interested in participating in either of these events, be on the lookout for a Zoom invitation email from Mrs. Kendrick.
 - **Sibling Zoom** on Tuesday (4/21) from 3:30 – 4:00 pm. Introduce your younger sibling to your SP family. Tell a fun sibling fact or funny story.
 - **Jeopardy Night** on Friday (4/24) from 7:00 – 8:00 pm. Gift card prizes awarded.
 - Congratulations to Emma Schatz and her sister who won the **Vacation Family Trivia** during spring vacation. Maddie Hooks and Patrick Carbone were runners up. Thanks to everyone who participated.

- This Wednesday (4/22) will be the third in our **Perspectives from the “Classroom”** series featuring a distance learning reflective piece from one of our faculty members. This week, we will feature Dr. Jonathan Gnoza.
- Sr. Marie Benedict and Sr. Mary Mercy will lead **Chapel Prayer Service** on Thursday (4/23) from 7:40 – 7:50 am. This week the softball and baseball teams will assist in leading the service. This is an opportunity for building community, praying together, and growing in our faith. Faculty, students and parents wishing to participate can respond to the weekly Zoom invitation.
- Brendan Foley and his family are organizing a **St. Paul Care Drive** of pre-packaged individually portioned snacks or drinks (granola bars, trail mix, cookies, any sort of snacks) and thank you cards to distribute to local hospitals and nursing homes in appreciation for those on the front lines. Collection boxes will be placed under the front portico at St. Paul on Monday, April 27 from 2:30 – 4:30 pm. Please respect social distancing guidelines.
- **Happy Birthday** wishes to: Jacob Barrett, Nicholas Dube, Keira Dubitsky, Megan Fortier, Sophia Gerst, Serena Hansen, Brycen Kennedy, Sarah Lindquist, Jessica Martin, Christopher Millerick, Arya Patel, Emily Shanahan, Erik Swanson, Owen Wood, Mrs. McGuire and Sr. Mary Mercy Lee.



#BeTheLight
4/20 – 5/20, 2020

“Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

(John 1:5)

STARTS TONIGHT As previously indicated in my Easter Vigil message, to honor all our students but especially the Class of 2020, St. Paul will join the **#BeTheLight** movement and turn on our McPhee Stadium lights at 20:20 (that’s military time or 8:20 pm) for 20 minutes and 20 seconds every weeknight until May 20.

We will be burning our stadium lights to remind you to keep shining ... keep being the light of Christ through this unprecedented adversity in your young lives. In addition, we pray that these lights symbolize hope for the Class of 2020.

While the lights will be turned on live each night, you can access the #BeTheLight video on YouTube from the comfort of your home: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pxYtom5ryME> or see the SP website. We ask that you use this brief time for evening prayer and personal reflection. Thank you, Mr. Dennehy for bringing this national movement to our attention.

FR. HECTOR'S FINAL BLESSING

Happy Easter!!

I wish you and your family a blessed and happy Easter.

In the words of Saint Augustine,

"We are an Easter people, and Alleluia is our song!"

Celebrate! And remember, Easter is more than a day - it's the way.

We will celebrate Easter for fifty days until we celebrate the next great Feast, the Feast of Pentecost.

Everything is different now because the Tomb is empty. We are different now because we have been raised with Christ. We have been capacitated, through the Resurrection, to begin living our lives in a new way. Have you have heard the old adage, used often in a disparaging way.

As we continue to overcome many challenges during this Coronavirus pandemic, I invite you to make the MOST of your Easter season. Let's be an Easter community.

*Let's pray,
God of everlasting mercy,
who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast
kindle the faith of the people you have made your own,
increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed,
that all may grasp and rightly understand
in what font they have been washed,
by whose Spirit they have been reborn,
by whose Blood they have been redeemed.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

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

Have a great week everyone!

I know this MMA update is a bit long but lots to share after a week off. Take care of yourself and pray for each other. Keep soaring! Seniors lead us out of here.

Stay safe ... be well.

Mr. Dupont '72
President/Chief Administrator