

March 18, 2020

Dear Parents,

COVID-19 UPDATE: As we all wait out these next two weeks, I would like to gain information on the on-line capabilities of our students and their families. To help us better understand how families access on-line resources with your children, please complete this [survey](#) by Friday, March 20, 2020.

Over the past few weeks, we have all been receiving an abundance of on-line resources and it has been wonderful to see so many families sharing information online! While we do not know if the current quarantine will extend beyond the two weeks, I want to reassure you that our team at St. Jane School has been in ongoing contact, and we are exploring different technology platforms to engage our students should remote learning need to occur.

Although homework is not required during these two weeks at home, many families have inquired if books could be available for pick up. At the current time, I ask you to engage with learning activities you have found online and/or that teachers are providing on their webpages. If your child does not have a book for work that is listed on a teacher's webpage it is OKAY, children will not be graded for work during these two weeks. The teacher webpage information is to provide learning opportunities for enrichment to keep their minds moving and them out of your hair as best as possible. I ask for your patience as we continue to navigate these ever-changing days. Thank you for your continued support!

HAWKWALK 2020! Thankfully, letters are coming in daily. We are now up to \$42,000! On-line and matching contributions are doing extremely well. Check with your company to see if they match your donations. So far, Johnson & Johnson, Sanofi, Merck and PPL have all contributed with matching funds. Thank you all for your support of our fundraising campaign.

FOR NOW. Save the date! ROCKY RAILWAY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL -- SCHEDULED FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 20TH - Rocky Railway the VBS online registration is live. Here is the link if anyone is interested in registering in a fun way to learn about Jesus' love for us:

<https://www.stjanesofeastonpa.com/rocky-railway-vacation-bible-school-online-registration-2020/>

FOR NOW! 2020 VBS – ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Mark your calendars, Vacation Bible School is back! This year's theme is Rocky Railway! Take an exciting adventure where kids find that Jesus' power pulls us through! The program will run from Monday July 20th, 2020 through Friday, July 24th, 2020 (hours are 8:30 – 11:45 a.m. for volunteers) in Father Farrell Hall (1922 Washington Blvd, Easton, PA 18042). To have a successful Vacation Bible School, we need adult volunteers. Note: You will need to have attended Protecting God's Children Class and have all your clearances on file in the School Office. If you are interested, contact Kevin Kimmel at 610-253-7794 ext. 2 or kkimmel@rcn.com.

FINANCIAL AID FORMS - please apply online through FACTS. Thank you. Deadline is April 30, 2020.

If anyone needs to pray or talk, you can email me at PRINCIPAL@STJANESCHOOL.COM or Mr. Kevin Kimmel at kkimmel@rcn.com and let us know the best number and time to call you.

Bishop Alfred Schlert has cancelled all public Masses effective immediately to limit the spread of the COVID-19 however your family can view mass online at ad-today.com. In addition St. Jane Church is holding Eucharistic Adoration on Sundays in the Church from 1:00pm - 4:00pm and on Tuesdays in the Church from 9:00am - 9:00pm with benediction. Penance is also continuing on Wednesday evenings and on Saturdays (please consult the St. Jane Church website for updates regarding Church specific activities.) Updates on the Diocese response to COVID-19 can be found at <https://www.ad-today.com/>.

Mr. Kimmel has shared the following information:

There is a great podcast on More 2 Life called the Domestic Church Life - I highly recommend listening to this: <https://avemariaradio.net/audio-archive/more2life-march-16-2020/>

The talk today was full of helpful information on how to adjust to being home together.

Catholic content for your family (Videos, Podcasts, Websites, Apps, Music):
<https://www.stjanesofeastonpa.com/catholic-media/>

While these do not replace actual attendance at Mass, they can help your family pray together and stay connected to the universal Church:

National Shrine: <http://www.catholictv.org/masses/national-shrine-mass>

St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York: <https://saintpatrickscathedral.org/live>

Catholic TV: <http://www.catholictv.org/masses>

If you prefer an online option from a Diocese of Allentown church, you may want to tune in to live Masses from St. John XXIII Church in Tamaqua. The parish live streams its Masses on its website, www.sj23tamaqua.org and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pg/sj23tamaqua/videos/>. The times are 4 p.m. Saturdays and on Sundays at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

EWTN, the network with Catholic-themed programming, televises two live Masses each Sunday at 8 a.m. and 12 noon. Below are the channel numbers for EWTN on cable services in the Diocese:

Service Electric Lehigh Valley: Channel 18

RCN in the Lehigh Valley: Channel 326

Xfinity in Berks County: Channel 52

Blue Ridge Cable in Carbon County: Channel 42

Service Electric in Schuylkill County: Channel 21

<https://www.ewtn.com/>

Daily Mass Readings & Reflections: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/031620.cfm>

When struggles and hardships come along, and we are very stressed, it's good for us to do three things:

1. Reconnect with God (pray with and for each other)
2. Reconnect with loved ones (hug and talk about how things are going)
3. Reconnect with our best self (what little steps can I take to help me think and react better)

Here are two podcasts that can help us reconnect with our best selves:

1. Here is a podcast on stress: <https://avemariaradio.net/audio-archive/more2life-march-12-2020/>
2. Here is a podcast on anxiety: <https://avemariaradio.net/audio-archive/more2life-march-13-2020/>

Stay connected with loved ones. Remember we are not in this alone, when hardship comes along we can turn to those who love us. The people we love may not be able to solve the problem and make it go away, but it is so important that we are there for each other. Also, with all the technology we have, it is easy to call, Facetime, Snapchat, and Instagram someone. Thank God for the technology we have.

It is okay to feel what you feel. God made us with feelings, thank God for that.

Regularly throughout the day share how you are feeling and ask how others are feeling. We do not have to share all our feelings with our children, however when we share age appropriate responses about how we are feeling, it encourages them to know that they are not alone in feeling scared or anxious or sad.

News and social media are important but please be careful to limit the exposure to it.

Take time each day (maybe 5 minutes for each) to PRAY, PLAY, TALK, and WORK together as a family.

Be intentional with family time and make a schedule for each day. Have a family meeting and go over how everyone is doing, what needs to be done each day, and how each of us can be kind and caring for each other.

Remember your family is a beautiful gift and distinct from any other. What ideas work for one family, may not work for another. Trust yourself and the grace that God gives you to be the best parent for your children. You are made in the image and likeness of God, beautifully and wonderfully made.

Pray together and for each other, encourage your children to ask God for things in prayer.

Make the prayers relate to our lives and help children to know their prayers are important to our loving God.

St. Jane School Lenten Theme for 2020: "Everyone is committed in the matter of peace, to do everything that they can...Peace is the language we must speak." Pope Francis

Peace is the most fundamental asset to community building, to personal growth, and to the very survival of our planet. This Lent our school community will practice one peacemaking too each week.

Welcoming--We greet people with a smile to make them feel included, part of a community (2/26-3/1)
Everyone did a great job!

Respect--We show respect for each person by following school and class rules (3/2-3/8)

Caring--We demonstrate caring by using kind words (3/9-3/15)

Compassion--We offer compassion to others through our daily prayers (3/16-3/22)

Charity--We support those who need us instead of looking the other way (3/23-3/29)

Faith--We model Catholic values through our sincere participation in liturgical devotion (3/30-4/8)

CLASSROOM REQUEST POLICY: Teacher requests will NO longer be accepted via email. If you would like to make a request, you need to schedule a meeting with your child's current teacher and Mrs. Okula in order to discuss your concerns. Thank you.

Sincerely, Mrs. Marybeth Okula (Principal)