



# DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

153 Ash Street, Manchester, NH 03105

*Superintendent of Schools*



April 9, 2020

Dear Families and Staff,

As Christians, the Triduum includes the three most solemn days of the liturgical year, Holy Thursday (today), Good Friday (tomorrow), and the Easter Vigil (Saturday evening). These are the most holy of days for us as believers because we celebrate the Paschal Mystery, which means, the passion, suffering, and death of the Lord Jesus, followed by His resurrection and victory over sin and death. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." (John, 3-16) This weekend marks that very moment when Jesus gave up His life in atonement for our sins and in turn gave us the gift of eternal life in Heaven.

This year, during these unprecedented times of physical separation from our communities, fear, worldly anxiety, and timidity, let us courageously and boldly enter into the Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil with our families. I encourage all of you to spend time as families in prayer and thanksgiving over the next three days. Many parishes have listed their schedules for this weekend's live streaming services on the diocesan website at [Holy Week Schedules](#). If you cannot find your parish, their schedule may be found on their website.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your tremendous efforts over the past four weeks in transitioning to remote learning and instruction. I cannot say in words how proud I am of every student, every teacher, every staff member, every administrator, and every parent for what you have been able to accomplish these past few weeks. I realize we still need to learn, to improve and to grow with respect to remote instruction, however, take a moment to look back on how far we have come as a system of Catholic schools and recognize, as I do, your great accomplishment. Congratulations!

There are still many questions regarding when remote instruction might end, if schools will cancel end of year celebrations, or how this situation will affect the future of Catholic education in the Diocese of Manchester. In pondering these questions, Saint John Paul II comes to mind when he said, "Have no fear of moving into the unknown. Simply step out fearlessly knowing that I am with you, therefore no harm can befall you; all is very, very well. Do this in complete faith and confidence." We will, therefore, continue to step out into the unknown, knowing God is with us and that all will be well. Our mantra as a Catholic community will forever remain, "**Jesus, I trust in you!**"

In the meantime, let us recognize the opportunity for us as families to spend more time with one another at home in more meaningful and intentional ways. Let us remember that children have been learning at home since the beginning of time and that every card game, dinner conversation, home project, and recipe followed is a unique learning opportunity for children and parents. Maybe, if we turn off our devices at the end of the school and work day, and take these new learning opportunities, we just may learn a little more about the people that mean the most to us.

May God bless you and your families always and may you have a very Blessed and Happy Easter!

Sincerely Yours,

Superintendent of Catholic Schools  
Diocese of Manchester