Dear Families,

As you may have predicted, with Governor Baker's announcement that all public schools are to close for three weeks, St. Mary's will also be closed until Tuesday, April 7th. Our building is currently being thoroughly cleaned and disinfected by Service Pro, and we're limiting entrance into the building to ensure it remains sanitized until we return.

Currently, we plan to add 5 days on to our previously scheduled last day of school, per the updated requirements set forth by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. As of now, our last day of school will be a half day on Friday, June 19th. We have no plans to cancel April vacation at this point, but will keep you updated if that changes. Teachers are working hard to ensure that students remain up to date with skills and concepts during this time. If teachers haven’t already been in touch regarding work to keep students up to date with skills and concepts, they will be very soon.

I understand how difficult this is for families. I am including some resources in hopes that it will help you manage this unprecedented time with your children out of school.

**How to Talk to Children about COVID-19:** [**https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-(coronavirus)-a-parent-resource?fbclid=IwAR0t69ylwYOpaaYVFrPCBgG0nUpKQjxRJGuIc4a17gcEifQDoFVJHh5svSg**](https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-%28coronavirus%29-a-parent-resource?fbclid=IwAR0t69ylwYOpaaYVFrPCBgG0nUpKQjxRJGuIc4a17gcEifQDoFVJHh5svSg)

**See Attached:**

* **Social Distancing: This is Not a Snow Day**
* **Suggested At Home Learning Schedule**
* **Ideas for At Home Learning- with and without access to internet**

**Additional resources for Online Learning:**

Please see the attached letter from ABCmouse. They are offering free access to their sites for all schools that are closed due to the Coronavirus. Included in the letter is our school code and directions on how to access.

**Updates on other events/activities:**

**Babysitting Course:** The babysitting course will resume after school on the first Wednesday we return.

**Living Stations of the Cross:** Students will perform this at school on Thursday, April 9th. Living Stations at the church has been cancelled.

**Robotics:** We will keep you posted on a reschedule of the competition, as well as family night.

**Battle of the Books:** This has not been cancelled as of yet. We will be in touch regarding a day students can come check books out of the library, and exchange Battle Books.

**Stone Soup:** In order to maximize our time upon our return to school, we will not hold Stone Soup this year.

**First Communion Rehearsals:** We will be in touch regarding make-ups for the first communion retreat as well as an updated schedule of rehearsals. As of now, 1st Communion is still scheduled for Saturday, May 2nd at 9 a.m.

**Current Fundraisers:**

Our chairs have generously offered to keep sales going for Basket Full of Easter Joy lottery ticket raffle, and the Mielke Confections Easter chocolate sale. Please feel free to continue selling lottery tickets (albeit digitally). Should you have any questions, email amy.moorby@gmail.com

**Easter Chocolate Fundraiser:**

If you handed in orders already, thanks, those are all set. If you were planning on handing in orders this week, you still can! Here's what you do: email each order (even if you have multiple orders) to Marta at: marta.starczewska@yahoo.com by Wednesday 3/18. Marta will fill out order forms from your emails. Keep the money for the orders for now and expect to hand that money in when the fulfilled orders are deliver in April. We will email you about when/where to pick up your orders. Thank you for your patience! Email Marta if you have any question.

Once again, we thank you all for your patience and support during this time. Please stay safe, and be well

Best,

Jen Masten