



## Saint Matthias School Mission Statement

Saint Matthias School, in partnership with the Catholic Community of Saint Matthias and our school families, provides an educational foundation that celebrates diversity, and nurtures students to develop moral values and life skills. We strive to engage each student spiritually and academically in a Christ-centered environment, to prepare them to live as disciples and citizens.

Grace and peace, dear parents,

It is interesting that the time seems to be moving quickly and slowly at the same time. It seems so long ago since we were able to interact with one another in person. That time will come again, and I am so grateful for the patience each person is bringing to this new mode of learning for our students. Even though we find ourselves in our own home dwellings, we can continue to be united as we lift each other in prayer each day.

I am sure you have had a chance to read the letter from our Superintendent, Dr. Robert Lockwood. The letter was posted on an e-blast yesterday. Dr. Lockwood indicates that the schools, under the direction of the Governor will be closed for two more weeks. I know that we will be receiving further information from Dr. Lockwood as to how that relates to our Easter break. I will keep you posted. There is a scheduled virtual Principals' meeting scheduled for Monday, so I will be reaching out to you with further information after that meeting.

On Monday, the school staff had a virtual Faculty meeting. We will continue to meet in that type of forum and touch base with one another as we explore and experiment with new modes of communication in learning. The staff will be available to you with office hours each day from 9AM-1PM. This form of communication is very intense and we need to take a rest from it after 1PM each day. Weekends remain weekends during this period of isolation, please respect that time of recharging for one another. I have been invited as a co-teacher in the Google Classrooms and have truly enjoyed the interaction and comments between the staff and students as all of us continue to learn.

Take time during this at-home learning period to continue to read rigorously. One of our goals this year was to raise the reading stamina and volume for each of our students. So, let's take advantage of this time to read. I would recommend that each student from K through grade 8 also keep a journal at this time. This period of our history is uncharted adventures, let's document it so that our students can one day share it with their children and grandchildren.

### ***Attention All Young Authors!:***

The due date for the rough draft of your book is extended until next Wednesday, 4/1. Please send it to your ELA teacher via Google Docs and share it with them so they can make comments and suggest edits. At this time pictures are not required, only the written content. For those of you doing graphic stories or comic books, please send your work to Miss Allegro either through Google Docs or email.

The next due date which is for the final draft is still set as May 6. Depending on what happens to the school schedule that date may need to be adjusted. For now, continue to work on your book and plan to have it done by the beginning of May. *Thanks! Miss Allegro and Ms. Crimmel*

I ask you to check the St. Matthias Parish website on a regular basis. Announcements regarding the Sacramental life of the parishioners and upcoming Holy Week will be posted. Last evening a blast came from the parish and it is comforting to know that we are all in this together.

Last week in our Wednesday Letter, we had Father Abraham lead us in prayer and this week we have words of inspiration and encouragement from Father Joe as stated below.

### ***There's no Place Like Home...***

These famous words spoken by Dorothy, in *The Wizard of Oz*, were spoken from her desire to be back in her safe place. She went through quite a journey to truly realize, just how wonderful home was!

The Coronavirus has sent us all on an unwanted journey, much like Dorothy. Hopefully it will give us a greater appreciation of the great gift we have in our home, our family and our faith.

As a way to do this we offer the following for you as a family to help on your present journey:

1. Have an honest discussion of what is the thing that you are most afraid of?
2. Come up with some ideas or ways that your family can invite God into your fears. Do you have favorite prayers as a family?
3. What is happening these days is something that will be shared with future generations. You as a family or as individuals may want to keep a journal of what is happening, how you're feeling and what you are doing these days.
4. What are some basic things that you can do together, like praying, playing games, that can help make things a little better? As a family look up those Bible passages wherein God is assuring us not to be afraid. e.g. "Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand." (Isaiah 41:10). Jesus said: "Come to me all you who are wearied and find life burdensome, and I will give you rest." (Mt. 11:28 - 30). Search for some others. Did any stand out for you? Why? [You can use Bible Gateway <https://www.biblegateway.com/keyword/> to help with your search!]
5. There's no place like home. What part does God have there?

We would like you to take some time as a family to complete these tasks and to record your responses. You may share them with us, if you choose.

And, here are words from Father Abraham.

### **SPIRITUAL ANTIDOTE FOR CORONAVIRUS**

When we hear more and more bad news about Coronavirus (the growing number of those tested positive, those who died, etc.), we can feel fearful, anxious and discouraged. It is then that we need to realize that even though we have no control over this pandemic, we have full control over what happens in our minds and spirits. This is the time for us to have a greater recourse to our faith as our spiritual antidote. Here's the simplest prescription: 1 tablet each in the morning, evening and night. The name of the tablets are:

*Morning- Psalm 91: Prayer of one who has taken refuge in the Lord.*

*Afternoon- Psalm 23: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.*

*Night- Psalm 121: My help comes from the Lord.*

Prayer and meditation can bring us calm and peace. These can be done individually and as a family. Here's another prayer:

*Loving God, Your desire is for our wholeness and well being. Yet you know our hearts are restless and fearful with the collective suffering of our world at this time. We grieve precious lives lost and vulnerable lives threatened. We worry about our lives and the safety of our near and dear ones. We ache for all who are standing before an uncertain future.*

*We pray for your protection: may love, not fear, go viral. Inspire our leaders to discern and choose wisely, aligned with the common good. Help us to practice social distancing and reveal to us new and creative ways to come together in spirit and in solidarity. Help us to have profound trust in your faithful presence, as a God who does not abandon us. Help us to trust promises of Jesus Christ your son who is Lord for ever and ever. Amen. Our Father .....*

Let us keep taking all precautions and keep praying, because though we do not know what the future holds for us, the good news is that we know who holds our future!

***Know that you and your family are in our prayers.***

I am grateful for the constant connection with our priests. Father Abraham and Father Joe have been so supportive and caring.

Thank you so much for partnering with us for best practices for our students.

Eileen Brett  
Principal  
Saint Matthias School