



DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

153 Ash Street, Manchester, NH 03105
Superintendent of Schools



March 26, 2020

Dear Catholic School Families and Employees:

Earlier today, Governor Sununu issued a “Stay-at-Home” order to take effect tomorrow night at 11:59 PM and remain in effect through May 4, 2020. The order requires nonessential businesses to close by the end of day, Friday March 27, 2020. The Governor stated this is not a “Shelter in Place” order and folks may leave their homes. WMUR coverage of the Governor’s press conference is located at [WMUR Governor’s Message](#) .

In response to the Governor’s order, all Catholic schools will continue remote instruction through May 4, 2020. In addition, all but a small number of essential school personnel will be working remotely. This stay-at-home order and extension of remote instruction may slightly change your local school’s remote instruction plan. As a result, your principal will send school-specific information regarding any changes or updates to your school’s plan.

All of our students, faculty, staff, and parents have put forth a tremendous effort these past two weeks. For this reason, I have asked all school leaders to ensure that they keep their April vacation dates as well as give students, families, and staff no online classes or work on Thursday, April 9 and Friday, April 10, 2020, allowing families time to worship and celebrate the Paschal Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. The Triduum leads us through Jesus’ Passion, to the culmination of our Christian life: Easter Sunday. Given this unprecedented challenge to our nation, it is critically important that we turn to Our Lord during this holy time.

To assist in your preparation for the Paschal Triduum, your pastors are now live streaming their Holy Masses and other services. For a list of parishes with live streaming Masses, click [Masses online](#) or on our diocesan website. If you do not see your parishes Mass times listed, simply check the parish website or Facebook page. In addition, each week during Lent Bishop Libasci is recording messages just for you! To hear this week’s message click [Bishop’s Lenten Message](#) or go to the Diocese of Manchester website.

Please know how hard our Catholic school teachers, staff, and school leaders are working to deliver remote instruction to your children through this difficult time. My team in the Catholic Schools Office will continue to assist your school leaders and staff through this extended time of remote instruction. I am very proud of the work they are doing and what they have accomplished to ensure that your children’s education remains of the highest quality; imbued with our strong Catholic Identity. It in these difficult times where we must practice the virtues of Patience, Prudence, and Courage. Our children are watching. As St. Pope John Paul II reminds us, “Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people, and Hallelujah is our song”.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

David A. Thibault
Superintendent