



# ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS

*The Church in Central and Southern Indiana*

Monday, April 6, 2020

Dear School Leaders, Faculty, Staff, Parents, and Students,

The Most Reverend Archbishop Charles C. Thompson wants our parish and school communities to know that you are in his thoughts and prayers always, including this unprecedented time of building closures and distance spiritual and academic learning due to COVID-19. We are grateful to Archbishop Thompson as he shares his passion for our Savior, Jesus Christ with us, and his Christ-like servant-leadership. Let us continue to keep him and all of our priests in our prayers as they strive to be shepherds amongst their scattered flocks.

Our thoughts and our earnest prayers are with you during this extraordinary time. Our schools are communities in which we discover, learn, and develop our God-given talents as well as witness and encourage each other in faith. It hurts when we are not together; it is counter-intuitive to the way in which we connect as a community of believers. As our Holy Father preached last week, “Embracing His cross means finding the courage to embrace all the hardships of the present time.” We offer this message of gratitude and hope as we prepare to enter the holiest of weeks.

To our school leaders and teachers, thank you for your incredible efforts to redesign your teaching in short order, always keeping young people and their needs front of mind (and heart). Countless messages from our teachers can be found online, echoing the desire to interact with “their” children – the students that they have come to know and love as part of their school family. And to our staff members, thank you for stepping up in ways that are possibly outside of your typical responsibilities to ensure that teachers, students, and families have what they need. Let us each offer this hardship as a Lenten sacrifice for all those afflicted with COVID-19 and for those who have been entrusted to care for them.

To our parents and guardians, thank you for investing and supporting Catholic education. We recognize that the last couple of weeks have been especially challenging, as many of you transitioned to working from home while juggling your young people’s continued learning. Know that your school team is here to help in any way possible. You can count on them! Last Friday in his extraordinary [urbi et orbi](#) message, Pope Francis reminded us, “...many fathers, mothers, grandparents, and teachers are showing our children, in small everyday gestures, how to face up to and navigate a crisis by adjusting their routines, lifting their gaze and fostering prayer.” By investing in Catholic education and formation, you serve as positive role models of our faith so that your children may come to know, love, and serve Christ more fully.

And to our students, know that you are missed daily by all who have had the pleasure of working and learning beside you. Thank you for your resilience. Thank you for helping your siblings and your parents during this

time. Continue to work hard and seek the joys and positive outcomes that result from this atypical experience. Sometimes the greatest joys come from the biggest heartaches and struggles...as long as we trust in God and continue to do our part to emulate Christ's love and light. We look forward to the day when we can be back with you in person, to hear your joyful laughter once again, and to see your smiling faces.

Although we may be physically apart, we are united as we prepare to enter the holiest of weeks in which we remember and make present Jesus' journey from Palm Sunday through the Triduum - Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday - to the glory of Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday. We have included some excellent resources for your families to use throughout this week, which can be found at [www.archindy.org](http://www.archindy.org). You are invited to connect with your parish and Archbishop Thompson through the various broadcasts of the liturgies and Good Friday service, also found on this site. Here are a few shortcuts to pertinent resources for families:

**Holy Week Resources for Families**

<https://archindy.org/files/Holy%20Week%20at%20Home%20for%20Families.pdf>

**Holy Week at Home Prayers (Spanish)**

<https://d2y1pz2y630308.cloudfront.net/19021/documents/2020/3/Manual-de-Semana-Santa-para-celebrarlo-en-familia.pdf.pdf>

**Holy Week at Home Prayers (English)** <https://archindy.org/worship/files/Holy%20Week%20at%20Home.pdf>

May we turn our longing for Christ in the Eucharist into greater devotion. May we turn our desire to be with our fellow parishioners into even greater unity. By our entry into the liturgies of this Holy Week, may we more fully grasp, again in the words of Pope Francis, that "We have an anchor: by His cross, we have been saved. We have a rudder: by His cross, we have been redeemed. We have hope: by His cross, we have been healed and embraced so that nothing and no one can separate us from his redeeming love. In the midst of isolation when we are suffering from a lack of tenderness and chances to meet up, and we experience the loss of so many things, let us once again listen to the proclamation that saves us: He is risen and is living by our side."

May the Lord in His mercy heal us, and may His Blessed Mother intercede for us as we prepare to enter this holiest of weeks. Archbishop Thompson, Vicar General Monsignor Stumpf, Chancellor Mickey Lentz, and all in the Office of Catholic Schools wish you a very blessed and Happy Easter!

Blessings during this Holy Week and always,



Gina Kuntz Fleming & The Office of Catholic Schools Team