



Mar 29-Apr 5 FTF Update

We know this is a very stressful time for families. As the shelter in place order extends you may find that your children/teens need more to keep them occupied. We hope you will find these resources helpful during this time. **Please check the parish website frequently for important updates and information.**

We are not making our lessons mandatory. Make sure your children/teens have their regular schoolwork completed first.

If you have ideas on how we could better serve you, please let us know.

For This Week

- ❖ New Resources
- ❖ Schedule of Virtual Events
- ❖ Tips on Home Schooling
- ❖ Sacramental News
- ❖ Parent Feedback

Parent Feedback

Angie Hernandez, emailed Mrs. Czekaj (Grade 1 catechist) to thank her:

“Thanks for the lesson Elwira”

Angie also sent pictures of the completed worksheets, her 1st and 4th graders did as part of the lesson

Angie went on to say, *“We saw The Prince of Egypt last Sunday and yesterday Joseph King of Dreams on Netflix.” She then asked Elwira Czekaj, “If you hear of any other shows/movies please let me know.”*

Kathleen Marrs wrote,

“Mrs. Petit was so kind to set up a zoom call (on Mar 29) and be thinking of our kids.”

Kathleen went on to reach out to all the parents who have kids in Mrs. Petit’s class via email suggesting,

“Wouldn’t Mrs. Petit be pleasantly surprised to get a letter from our kids saying what they

New Opportunities to stay connected

K-6 options

- **Children’s Liturgy of the Word (CLW)** - Join Dr. Peg on Zoom this **Sunday, April 5th @ 11am or 3pm.**
Invitation links on p. 5 sidebar
- **Station of the Cross Service for Children** - Join Dr. Peg via Zoom on Good Friday, **Apr 10th @ noon or 7pm.**

Teen Options

- **Teen Meditation Night**, hosted on our Teen Faith Instagram @holyfamily.teenfaith by Grant Guthrie on **Wednesday nights at 8pm.**
- **"What's on your mind?"** Conversation and prayer with Greg Kaldahl and Amy Hodson for teens. Hosted by Amy Hodson and Greg Kaldahl on **Thursday evenings at 8pm**
- **Faith on Fire will meet this Sunday, April 5th @ 7pm** via Zoom. Al Boslet will be sending out the Zoom link to those involved. If your HS junior or senior would like to join in, contact Amy Hodson at ahodson@holyfamilyparish.org and she will send you the link.

Young Adult (18-25) Options

- **Ablaze** faith-sharing group is meeting via Zoom on **Wednesday evenings at 7pm.**
Many of our college students are now home and needing the support of peers. If you have a college student at home, or know someone who does, have them contact the coordinator of this ministry, Courtney Smola at csmola@holyfamilyparish.org. Follow the Ablaze Instagram @holyfamily.ablazeministry for more information.

Family/Parent Options

- **Wednesday Recharge** – short reflections by Fr. Terry
Access them @ www.holyfamilyparish.org
These are pre-recorded so you can access them when it is most convenient for your family to do so.

All Family & Teen Faith lessons are available online. If you need help accessing them contact lferlita@holyfamily.org or gguthrie@holyfamilyparish.org. Catechists will be reaching out to their classes/small groups in various ways during this time.

Parent Feedback continued

praying for or just anything. Plus it gives them something to write about and someone to write to.

★ Children can make a real difference in the lives of others with a simple act of kindness. Doing things for others helps children (and adults) have a sense of their own power to change the situation, even in small ways, which is an effective antidote to anxiety and depression in children during times of great stress.

Liz Moore, thinks the online Mass is great for adults. *“We [Liz and her husband] are really enjoying Fr. Terry’s homilies. He [Fr. Terry] is always good, but these may be the best he’s ever been. The Mass is not great for our kids, most of it goes right over their heads. Is there something we could do for children?”*

I hope the Moore’s will find the Children’s Liturgy of the Word Service (beginning **Sun Apr 5th**) better suited to the kids.

Sometimes the only way to get through it is to laugh!

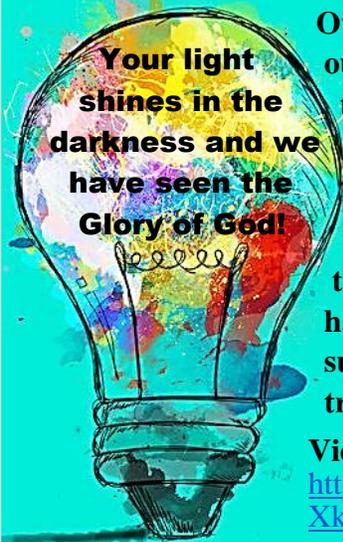
Day 6

I know the C-Virus is scary, but try working with a 4 year-old dressed like Spiderman perched on the kitchen table behind you whispering, "can you hear me breathe".

Krista Myers Duran

“If you had asked me what the hardest part of battling a global pandemic would be, I would have

Family Faith kids, you are an inspiration!



Over the past four years, the partnership our Family Faith kids have forged with the students of **Divine Mercy School** in Kenya has been amazing to behold.

Year by year we have witnessed the power of love unfold and transform the lives of all the children. Miracles happen when we care about the suffering of our brothers and sisters and trust in God’s love.

Video link

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZPMmVfvqXkOXA30MzFsJR2HBBMZIE4QI/view?usp=sharing>

How is home schooling going at your house?

If you are like most parents, even parents who are teachers by profession, home schooling is challenging. Asked to manage and direct your children’s learning while you are also supposed to be working from home is a tall order. So here are some things to keep in mind.

- ✚ **Recognize and remind** yourself this is temporary and everyone is in the same boat.
- ✚ **Cut yourself some slack!** This is a crash course. Very few parents could image what intense homeschooling would be like three weeks ago. Things always look simpler on paper.
- ✚ **Eyes on the Prize** - We are dealing with a global pandemic. The goal is to stay as healthy and sane as possible and help those you love do the same.
- ✚ **Avoid comparing** yourself to other parents and your kids to other kids.
- ✚ **Boredom is a universal experience and is difficult to deal with.** Enforced social distancing dramatically increases feelings of boredom, which add to our frustration and stress. Frustration and stress are the prime reason kids act out.



Avoid comparing yourself to other parents! For we all know this was Day 1 and he is an only child.

Read: [Teachers advice on homeschooling during COVID 19 crisis.](#)

never guessed, “teaching elementary school math.”

Simon Holland

“What a crazy world— my 5yo just requested me to please not be loud or crazy because she has a call at 10 with her class.”

Vic Vijayakumar

Read this:

[After Being Forced To Homeschool Their Children Due To ...](https://www.boredpanda.com/quarantine-homeschooling-parents-understand-teachers/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=organic)

https://www.boredpanda.com/quarantine-homeschooling-parents-understand-teachers/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=organic

and then **Thank a Teacher!**

"Don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good."

Any green branch from the backyard will do (however, cutting neighbor's branches without permission is off limits).

No green branches anywhere near you? No problem – green construction paper will work fine. Be creative. Think outside the box.

Any extroverts out there? Talk the neighbors into doing this and award a prize for the best door. Have fun!

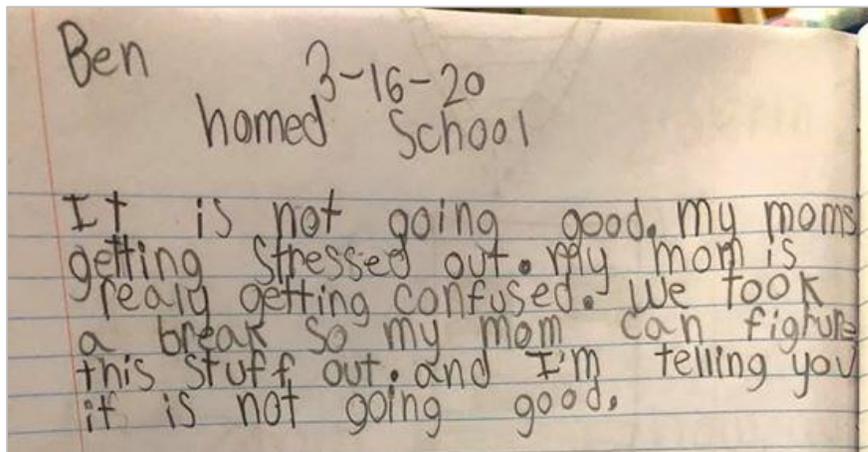
Send us a picture of your door and enter the contest

★ **Prizes awarded** to the family with the

✚ **Best overall door**

✚ **Most creative door**

- ✚ **Practice and model good self-care** - eat well, get enough sleep, exercise, if you have a backyard or can take a short walk in your neighborhood while practicing social distancing, do so.
- ✚ **Take breaks** – now you know why recess and free periods are part of every school day.
- ✚ **Get off your screens for part of every day.**



Teaching is not a job, it is a vocation. A quick look tour of social media these days should help you see you are not the only one receiving unfavorable student reviews!

Feel free to email tips that are working for you for home schooling to Dr. Peg at phanrahan@holyfamilyparish.org and she will share them in future weekly updates.

Celebrate Palm Sunday

The Missionaries of the Holy Spirit posted this idea on their Facebook page:

What if everyone on Sunday April 5 in the morning, puts a branch on the door of their house or on the window, to celebrate Palm Sunday?

It could be any green branch you can get. This would help, despite the social distancing, to be connected as we enter into the Holiest of Weeks.

Join us

We may be physically isolated, but not separated. We are united as the body of Christ. **We are the Church!**



FIRST COMMUNION UPDATES

Our May 2nd, 9th & 10th celebrations of First Communion are officially CANCELLED.

As soon as we are once again able to hold Masses in the Church, we will re-schedule. The same formats will be used

Using ZOOM

The FTF staff members are using **Zoom**, a video conferencing platform, to hold many of our ‘virtual’ meetings and activities.

In order to ensure your children/teen’s privacy and safety on Zoom, we have employed the following guidelines.

1. **If you receive a Zoom invitation from us, please do not share it with others.** If you have family members or friends who are interested in attending some of our events, we ask that you send us their name and email address and we will send them the link.

To further protect small group or counseling situations, the participant will be given a **password** to enter the meeting.

2. We will use **the waiting room feature**, which allows the meeting host to determine who and when participants can enter the meeting.

Once everyone is in the meeting, the host will **LOCK** the meeting. This prevents any new participants from joining the meeting.

This means you must **be on time** for the Zoom event.

3. The host will control who can share a screen during the Zoom event.

★ None of these precautions will ensure the safety and privacy of the participants if they share the Link and/or passwords with others

(Class Masses or celebrating at one of our regularly schedule weekend Masses). Once the dates have been set, we will send parents a link to sign-up for the date that works best for their family.

We know many of the children will be disappointed by the postponement of their First Communion. Some may even worry they will not be receiving the sacrament now; others will fear how special the day will be if relatives and friends they thought were coming will not be able to travel. To help alleviate some of their fears and worries **we will continue to work with our First Communion candidates and their families during this time.**

- **Our Faith-In Retreat** has a new design using distance-learning tools. Materials for the retreat will be sent to parents via email next week.
- Continue to listen to the songs we will be singing for First Communion. Use the link below <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/zczt5bb3m0n5eff/AAACX4164KfjG3vg79s5Xnqaa>
- The song the entire class will be doing for the post communion reflection is *Thankful*. The children will be doing the motions while singing. Have them watch this short video to learn the motions https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Erok8_xBw
Next week we will send you a video so they can learn the motions for *This is the Day*.
- Continue to pray The Sign of the Cross and the Our Father with your child every day, and add the Hail Mary to their list.
- Reconsider lighting your child’s First Communion candle more frequently during this time. Symbols are powerful. Lighting your child’s candle is a way to reassure them that their First Communion is important.

NOTE: If your child’s candle is already well-used, find any other candle in the house and only use the First Communion candle to light that candle (at least until it is safe for us to get a new First Communion Candle to you).

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Marta Robak at mrobak@holyfamilyparish.org

CONFIRMATION UPDATES

The April 26th celebration of Confirmation at Holy Family is CANCELLED.

We are still waiting for instructions from the Archdiocese about rescheduling the celebration of Confirmation. Our preference would be to re-schedule it as soon as possible and not wait to combine it with next year’s Confirmation.

★ A basic rule of **video conferencing etiquette** asks that participants mute themselves when not talking to cut down on distracting background noise.

5. In some meetings/events, the host will mute the audio buttons of the participants and ask them to use the feature that allows them to raise their hand to make a comment or ask a question.

FUN SERVICE OPTION FOR ALL AGES

Tackle world hunger AND improve your vocabulary by playing **FREE RICE** – <http://beta.freerice.com> - on your tablet or phone. The United Nations World Food Program developed this word game. Download the app from either Google Play or the App Store.

Pray the Stations of the Cross online. Service directed at teens and adults.

The way of the Cross: Journey of Pain and Hope, Archdiocese of Bombay, (length 14:09 min.)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w6_HvOB7aVQ

ZOOM Invitation Links

April 5th 11am session

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/297286226>

Y

April 5th CLW at 3pm session

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/225727394>

We know teens are disappointed about the reception of Confirmation being delayed. It is just one more important event in their lives that has been affected by COVID-19. **We will continue to work with our Confirmation Candidates, their families, and sponsors during this time.**

- **Many of our small groups are continuing to meet virtually.** Your teen's catechist will reach out to them about the details for their group.
- **Community Service continues** – Have your teens submit their **Service Logs** (IGNITE - <https://holyfamilyparish.org/ignite-catechesis-jr-high/>) (FLAME - <http://3jcqr63b3wmu40dlko1tip2yu9p-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/HS-Youth-Service-Log.pdf>) to Grant electronically by **May 15th**. If teens still need to do service to complete their 20 hours, direct them to the Holy Family Teen Faith Facebook and Instagram accounts for the handout **SPREAD LOVE - NOT GERMS – 15 WAYS TO VOLUNTEER FROM HOME** for suggested options.
- If your teen did the **FLAME I online retreat**, have them contact **Grant Guthrie** by **April 19th** to set up their final meeting (via Zoom).

If you have any questions or concerns, contact **Grant Guthrie** at ggthrie@holyfamilyparish.org

Passion Play Teens keep the story alive holding virtual rehearsals

Our world is upside down! COVID-19 has disrupted daily life across the globe. As millions shelter in place, it is any wonder our Easter Alleluia rings less triumphant? Like those early Christians, many of us find ourselves set apart, in a proverbial *upper room*, overwhelmed by a world turned upside down.

Our teens have been working on this year's production since January. When asked if they would continue with virtual rehearsals, they unanimously agreed.



This year's Passion Play, **Thy Will Be Done**, speaks to the question, following the will of God when the world turn upside down, and we are flooded with fear and uncertainty. In light of our current situation, his answer becomes even more poignant.

As soon as it is safe to do so, our teens will perform, **Thy Will Be Done** at Holy Family. We hope you will join us for a wonderful production, followed by a conversation with the cast and crew.