

Here are your updates for the week ending Friday, May 8, 2020

**Harmony Foods Survey:** Earlier this week everyone was sent a link to a survey from Harmony Foods regarding our lunch program. We are asking that all surveys be completed by Friday, May 15. The survey can be accessed here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DZ6BPG8>

**Donation Drive Extended:** So far, we have had a great response from the outside community and Parish for our Frontline Worker Appreciation Donation Drive! We are extending the event for one more week, and are looking for mostly snack and drink donations that will be given to local hospital and emergency services staff. Donations can be dropped off in the church lobby Monday-Friday between 9:00am-12:00pm. The Old Bridge Check Cashers on Englishtown Road is also accepting donations, or you can contact Mrs. Brickman at [Alisonmariebrickman@gmail.com](mailto:Alisonmariebrickman@gmail.com) for alternate arrangements. The last day for donations is next Friday, May 15.

**Distance Learning Continues:** As per Governor Murphy's announcement, our distance learning will continue through the end of the school year. We are in the process of putting plans in place for the remainder of the year (8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation, textbook/Chromebook return, etc.), and as soon as things are finalized we will send you the information. Thank you for your patience.

**Virtual Learning Schedule:** Please continue to check the teacher's websites and the school webpage for updates and assignments, and contact the teacher directly if you have questions regarding an assignment. It is VERY IMPORTANT that all students check into their homeroom each morning and attend and participate in EVERY class, including their specials. All participation and assignments will be counting towards their grade and attendance for the class.

**2020-2021 Registration:** Please be sure that you have completed your Bio Updates through the online enrollment portal. All returning families MUST complete a Bio Update for their child(ren) through the online PowerSchool Enrollment Portal, in addition to completing and returning your forms. Also, please keep in mind that all forms can (and should!) be uploaded directly to the portal so you should not need to send any paperwork into school. This Enrollment Portal is different from your update on Smart Tuition. If you have any questions regarding registration, please contact us at [registration@sttaob.com](mailto:registration@sttaob.com). Also, any families who are registering younger siblings for the first time need to use the New Student Enrollment Portal. If you need either of these links, please contact us through the registration email as well. Finally, all required forms can be found on the school website in the Forms drop-down menu.

**May Crowning and Parish Masses:** The link for all live streamed masses can be found at <http://www.saintthomasob.com/>

- **MAY CROWNING:** On Tuesday, May 12, 2020, at the daily 12:15 p.m. Mass, we will also celebrate a May Crowning. We would like to involve all families and individuals to do so as well at home with us, by making a simple crown for your statue of the Blessed Mother at home and crowning your statue at the same time it is placed on the Blessed Mother statue in our church, asking Mary's constant intercession especially in this month of May.
- **MASS IN TIME OF PANDEMIC:** We are also asking for submissions of the names of deceased loved ones that have died from COVID19 and any who may be sick with the virus that we can pray for in a special "Mass in Time of Pandemic," approved by Pope Francis. Names may be submitted on our website ([www.saintthomasob.com](http://www.saintthomasob.com)) by May 14, 2020. The Mass will be live-streamed on Friday, May 15, 2020 at 12:15 p.m.
- **WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE:** Parish Masses are live streamed on the following schedule:
  - Monday-Friday at 12:15 PM
  - Saturday at 4:00 PM
  - Sunday at 10:30 AM and 12:00 PM

**The Parish and School Offices are closed** so no one is available to accept things that are dropped off, therefore regular mail or email is still the best way to contact us. Someone checks the mail at least once each week so if you have anything that needs to go to the office, please mail it to:

St. Thomas the Apostle School, 333 State Highway 18, Old Bridge, NJ 08857

We hope that everyone is safe and healthy. If you need to contact anyone on the staff, please continue to use email as the school and office will remain closed. We continue to pray for all of our St. Thomas family, especially those who are ill during this time. Have a wonderful weekend – Happy Mother's Day!!!