**ST. MARTHAS OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

20 September 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I just wanted to send home a friendly reminder about protocol for symptomatic students. It’s the beginning of cold, flu, and allergy season so symptoms are bound to arise in students which are not indicative of COVID 19 but rather the seasonal flu/allergies/ or sinus infections. However, keeping this in mind, I would ask the following:

1. If a student has symptoms of COVID 19 – particularly Fever, Dry cough, Tiredness, we ask that they do not attend class under any circumstances. THIS WILL NOT JEOPARDIZE THEIR PROGRESS. ALL MATERIALS ARE ONLINE.
2. If there are symptoms of COVID 19, please go get tested for COVID 19.
3. *If the test comes back positive*, students must withdraw from class immediately. They may only resume classes until all symptoms have subsided and the student is deemed safe to resume studies by a qualified physician/medical professional. This will require a doctor’s note.
4. *If the test comes back negative, but a student is still symptomatic*, please refrain from attending class for two consecutive weeks or until symptoms have subsided.

I decided to send home this letter after there were reports of parents/guardians in different school systems negligently sending students to class who were symptomatic. I hope this letter gives slightly more clarification than last week. This is not meant to instill panic, but rather give our parents/guardians confidence in our Parish Staff that we are doing our best to protect you and your children during this unprecedented time. We will continue to listen and watch Governor Raimondo’s directives as closely as possible regarding schooling in our State. I also hope this is the last necessary letter I need to send out regarding the Virus.

Respectfully,

Matthew J Burns, Director of Religious Education