

THE CRUSADER TIMES

News from The Atonement Academy --- Vol. 2019-2020. No. 33, April 2, 2020

“I plead with you, never, ever give up on hope, never doubt, never tire, and never become discouraged. Be not afraid.”

--Saint John Paul II

Today is the 15th Anniversary of the death of Saint John Paul II. May he intercede for us in a special way during this terrible pandemic.



Weekly Letter from Mr. Watson

April 2, 2020

Dear Atonement Family,

This season of restricted movements and limited action puts me in mind of a sentence I first read nearly twenty years ago. It comes from a little book entitled *The Sacred Journey*, Frederick Buechner's 1982 memoir of his childhood and youth during the Great Depression and World War II.

Deep within history, as it gets itself written down in history books and newspapers, in the letters we write and in the diaries we keep, is sacred history, is God's purpose working itself out in the apparent purposelessness of human history and of our separate histories, is the history in short, of the saving and losing of souls, including our own.

Consider this: The headlines, as they say, have been “writing themselves” for weeks. The time will come when they will be culled for a paragraph or two in the history books of our children's children. Yet as economies slacken and statistical models are recalibrated to reflect ever bleaker epidemiological projections, God moves among and even uses these things writing in the souls of those around us, especially, I think, our children.

The character of each generation is to some extent marked by the exigencies of the era in which it comes of age. Some of you may recall Tom Brokaw's *The*

Greatest Generation (1998), a collection of biographical vignettes through which Brokaw argued that the combination of a childhood amid the Great Depression and a young adulthood mobilized by World War II forged, in his words, “the greatest generation any society has ever produced”; those of us with parents or grandparents of that generation may be inclined to agree with his thesis.

Even when the litany of global tribulations for a time abates, a young person’s private suffering may serve to cultivate greatness of soul. Figures as diverse as Theodore Roosevelt, Thérèse of Lisieux, and Winston Churchill each endured sickness, grave injury, or extended convalescence in childhood or youth, without which their character might have lacked some of the temper it evidenced under later strains.

Students, how will your generation define itself in the COVID-19 era? How can you personally call for a high-minded response? Parents, what is the “sacred history” being written right now in your home? What are the stories that your grandchildren will grow up with because you met the time that was given you with courage, resourcefulness, love, and faith?

Stay steady, Crusaders.

Our Lady of The Atonement—pray for us!

Your servant,

Matthew David Watson
Head of School

NATALIE PECHA NAMED NATIONAL HISPANIC SCHOLAR



Junior Natalie Pecha was notified that she earned a spot as a National Hispanic Scholar. This recognition program selects students of academic merit for scholarships from the national Hispanic Scholarship Fund.

Of note, Natalie follows her siblings, Atonement graduates Joseph ('14), Thomas ('15), and Maria ('19) in this competitive distinction.

HOLY WEEK LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

April 2, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As COVID-19 continues to run its course and disrupt our lives, I am saddened to announce the Holy Week Liturgies will be closed to the public. I understand this is disappointing news; I want to assure you it is disappointing for me as well. However, this does not prohibit us from making the journey to Jerusalem, to the cross, and to the empty tomb.

I believe God is always at work, even in what we deem difficult situations. God is there providing His grace and new opportunities for growth in our faith. I believe now might be such a time.

As I was pondering the new "Stay at Home" restriction, I thought about how blessed most of us are to have access to water, food, and to be alive. While our normal lives have been disrupted, there are new and more opportunities for us to set aside time with our families for prayer, study of scripture, and most of all reflecting upon God's great love for you and His mighty acts of salvation. We are a blessed people; we must not forget, the things of this world will pass away, but God's Kingdom is everlasting. Our forced "Stay at Home" restriction coincides with the Holiest Week in the Church year; may we use the time wisely to focus on that which is imperishable and everlasting. We are loved by God and we are His redeemed people.

Therefore, I want to invite you to ponder the mystery of our salvation, and to make the trek again to the cross and the empty tomb. I want to encourage you to watch the live-streamed liturgies. In addition I want to encourage you to use the "Stay Home" restriction to make the Holy Triduum (The Sacred Three Days) days of pondering the mystery of salvation.

Below you will find the times for Holy Week liturgies. In closing, I leave this thought with you. In his series "Catholicism," Bishop Robert Barron poses the question: "How do we know Jesus loves us, how can we be certain?" He puts forth the following answer, "Because, we nailed him to the cross, and he rose from the dead and came back to us." Be it known to all -- JESUS HAS RISEN. GOD LOVES YOU!

HOLY WEEK LITURGIES

Palm Sunday: Mass will be live-streamed at 9 am & 11 am

Holy Thursday: Mass will be live-streamed at 7 pm and an hour will be live-streamed for you to spend an hour with Jesus at the Altar of Repose

Good Friday: Good Friday Liturgy will be live-streamed at 3 pm

The Great Vigil of Easter: The Saturday liturgy will be live-streamed at 7 pm

Easter Day: Mass will be live-streamed at 9 am & 11 am

Faithfully,

Rev. Mark Lewis

We Are at 279 Enrolled for 2020-2021!



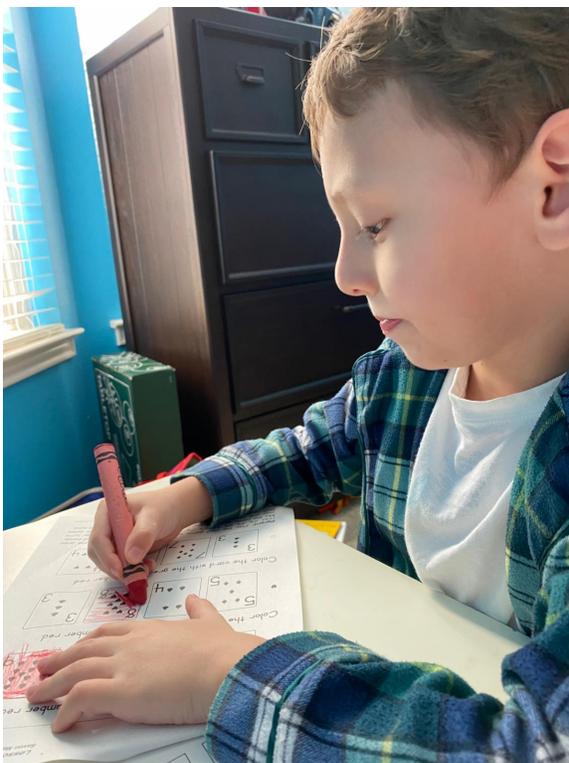
Thank you so much for re-enrolling and for spreading the good news about our school to family and friends. We are making great progress; thanks to you, we are well on our way to having double sections of some grades! Don't neglect to enroll, and let your friends know to do so as well! Above: Some of Mrs. Taylor's fifth graders hard at work.

**FULFILL YOUR SUNDAY OBLIGATION WITH MASS AT HOME
AND ADD DEPTH TO YOUR DAYS WITH DAILY MASS, TOO!**



Did you know that the Holy Mass at Our Lady of The Atonement Catholic Church is live-streamed EVERY DAY? Ms. Nieto and Mrs. Halpin have been recording and live-streaming the daily 10 am Mass as well as the Sunday 9 am and 11 am Masses on Facebook LIVE, then they post the Masses to the parish website tab [Mass videos](#) for viewing by others at their leisure. Above, the Garza family pray along with the first Sunday Mass we televised.

SCENES FROM YOUR HOME CAMPUS



With our second week of remote learning almost complete, our Crusader families are getting into a routine that we all pray will be short-lived! Our families are

sharing photos of their work and their leisure, both important components of healthy lives!

Mrs. Lozano's PreK-4 students David Nelson and Giulia Zilli are working on assignments above, and below the Ku family and the Nyberg family get some fresh air and recreation.



The DeHoyos family sent in two photos, one of Anna (PreK-4) and Santiago (First Grade) working on their assignments. Santiago added a message for his teacher Mrs. Kennedy, too.

The Groh family gets some of their athletics time in with runs around their neighborhood.

Joshua and Evie Wick made a chocolate cookie cake, and the Nybergs worked on a raised bed garden and Alexander found a flat headed snake (yikes!).

Alek Omiridis posed for a picture while studying with two hats on (observing his class's Hat Day on Tuesday).

The LeBranch family made the following observation about their daughter's photo with the butterfly: "Bernadette is reminded of love. St Francis used the butterfly as a symbol of Christ's Resurrection, and we will rise from the CoVid-19 crisis and live Easter glory."

From Mrs. Deborah Campos: "Pre-K4, Clayton, trying very hard to finish his homework for Mrs. Lozano. Then time for some relaxation. He misses his classmates, his teachers, & Mass very much. Clayton loved going to Mass



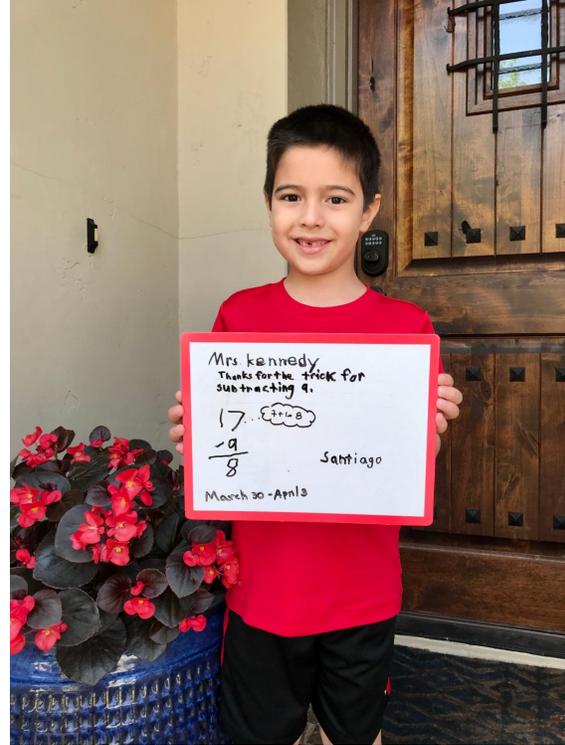
every day. He would come home & pretend he was Father Lewis! He enjoyed watching Father's video today."

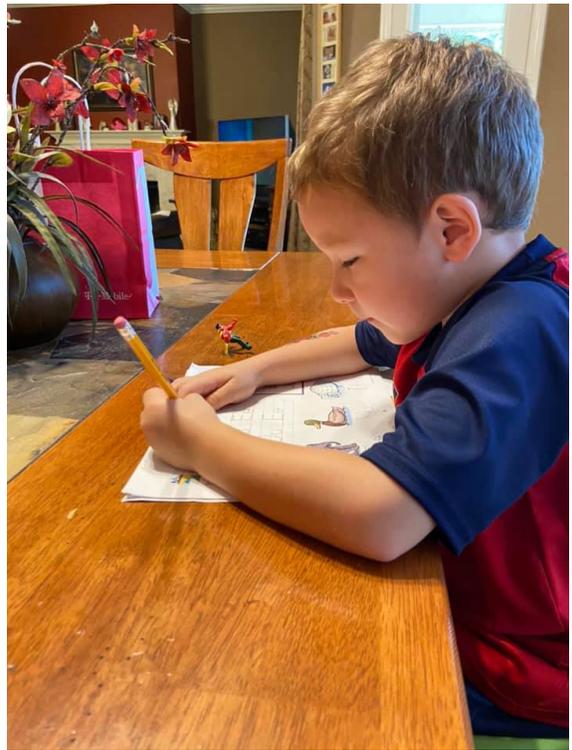
Stephanie Kranich said, "Parker wanted to share something joyful with Mrs. Kennedy and his 1st grade classmates: 'I just learned to ride without training wheels!' --better late than never and with social distancing but enjoying a short break in-between school lessons."

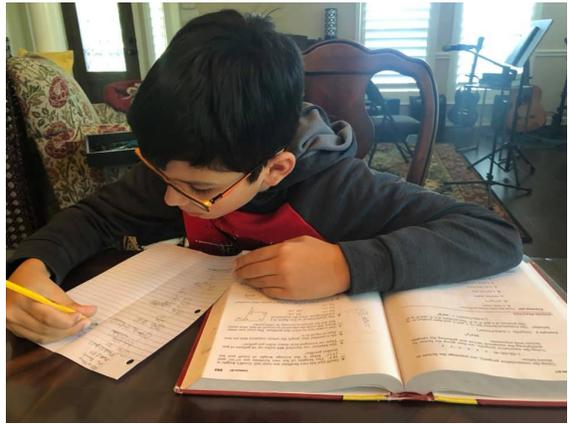
Angie Padilla noted, "Caden is staying active during these remote learning days! Enjoying God's gift of the outdoors!"

Crusader parents Daniel and Shawn Garcia said, "Gabriel is tackling 6th grade math like a pro. We also added a subject called Strategy 101 (laser chess)."

From the Nyberg family: "Alexander and Caroline Nyberg have been building a raised garden bed, going on a "bike hike" in the neighborhood (2 miles), and celebrating Caroline's 10th birthday! Thanks to Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Czech, Mrs. Kennedy, and all the teachers and staff at Atonement for the outstanding support during these trying times!"









Send in your photos (and observations) of your "Stay at Home" life these days so that we can share them with each other! We will post them in the weekly newsletter to keep faces and places familiar sights until we are together again on campus! Please send your observations and images to Mrs. Havel at mhavel@atonementonline.com.

Third Quarter Awards Correction



Hearty congratulations to Ireland Garvey! The third grader was inadvertently left off of our Gold Arrow listing last week. Ireland is depicted here with her teacher, Mrs. Garza--and she is listed below among the other third graders on the Gold Arrow list.

3rd Grade Gold

Diego Conrad
Logan Farber
Genevieve Galvez
Ireland Garvey
Elise Halpin
Gabriela Hernandez
Gabriel Puente Molina
Julia Moselina
Anna Thomas
Maximillian Vander Sys

TIPS & TRICKS & SANITY SAVERS



Art Lessons: **MAKE@makepaducah** on Facebook

A wonderful art teacher in Paducah, Kentucky has been live-streaming art lessons almost every day on Facebook. You can catch these LIVE or go to her Facebook page for replays of the instruction. Excellent series for children, teens, or adults who want to paint and draw!

Story Time Read-Alouds

Save with Stories is available on Instagram and Facebook. This public service on behalf of Save the Children US and No Kid Hungry organizations was begun during the COVID-19 pandemic to bring awareness to the circumstances of the less fortunate during this time. Find the books here: @savewithstories or #savewithstories -- note no spaces between words when doing the search.

Celebrities read stories with great emphasis and show pictures from the books along the way. Select any number of stories to review and share with your children on either Facebook or Instagram. While most of the selections are terrific, parents should preview these, when determining which to select, as some definitely have more liberal biases or are "politically correct."



Audible is Free!

An Amazon company, Audible.com, is FREE until kids get back to school.

<https://stories.audible.com/discovery>



Handwriting Practice

The publisher of our handwriting books has some excellent resources on their website. There are free printables and activities galore!

<https://upub.net/blog/info/alphamationplus-free-printables-quick-activities/>



USE AMAZON? AMAZON SMILE WANTS YOU!



Everyone is ordering so much online, and we want to remind you that your orders on Amazon Prime and regular Amazon accounts can benefit Our Lady of the Atonement Catholic Church and The Atonement Academy!

Don't forget to register / click on AMAZON SMILE and ensure that all of your Amazon orders will automatically generate a donation from Amazon to our parish church and school! It's a function you can activate on all of your Amazon purchases every day (millions of items are eligible, with very few exceptions)!

Haven't signed up yet? Just register on <https://smile.amazon.com> and Amazon will donate when you make your purchases! Easy as can be and doesn't cost a penny more!

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS CONTINUE TO GROW

Here is an updated glimpse of the colleges and universities that have

welcomed our graduating seniors. The latest addition was Union College, where Daniel Walmsley applied.



STAY HOME

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



STAY HOME

