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*Christ Our Cornerstone*

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**NEWMAN CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

1101 WEST 23RD STREET  
STERLING, ILLINOIS 61081-9002

April 30, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians, Staff and Students:

Another week has passed and tomorrow begins the month of May. Hard to believe we are not together enjoying the change to spring together here at school. Usually, by this time we are all getting the itch to be done with school for the year. I am sure you are all ready for the remote learning to be done but keep plugging away; you are in the home stretch. I am proud of how well our students have done. Keep up the good work.

**Remote Learning Planning Days**

Newman will be using May 1, 2020, May 8, 2020 and May 15, 2020 as Remote Learning Planning Days for our teachers. These are non-attendance days for our students. However, this does not mean you will not have work due on these days. It is also an opportunity for students to get their work up to date.

**Last Student Attendance Days**

Seniors last day of school is Friday, May 15, 2020. Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors last day of school will be Friday, May 22, 2020 if all work is completed for all of their classes. If students have any outstanding work, they will have to attend school on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 and Wednesday, May 27, 2020. May 27, 2020 is the last day late work will be accepted.

**Reconsecration of the Church - No Rosary**

May is the month of Mary. Friday, May 1, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. the Archbishop José Gomez, Archbishop of Los Angeles and President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops will lead a brief liturgy with the prayer of re-consecration of our nation to our Blessed Mother under her title of Mary, Mother of the Church. The links to join in this ceremony are:

[www.rockforddiocese.org](http://www.rockforddiocese.org); <https://www.facebook.com/usccb/>; <https://twitter.com/USCCB>;  
<https://www.instagram.com/usccb/>

Please join me in participating in this ceremony on Friday. Due to the Reconsecration, there will be no Rosary.

**Prom**

At this time, there will be no Prom.

**Baccalaureate Mass**

On Monday, May 18, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., the Baccalaureate Mass will be celebrated virtually with Fr. Bruce on NFHS. After the Mass celebration, Senior awards and scholarships will be presented. The link will be on Newman's website, email and social media outlets.

### **Graduation**

Based on responses from both parents and students, graduation is going to be postponed. At this time, we have no date set. State Superintendent Dr. Carmen I. Ayala just sent out this message last night, “**Therefore, in-person graduation ceremonies of any kind are not allowed at this time.**” This directive extends to drive-through graduation ceremonies or events where students come in small groups to the school or another location for a photo or to walk across a stage. The Governor’s extended stay-at-home order prohibits group gatherings. I join you in hoping that events can resume in person sooner rather than later, but that time is not now.” So, none of the options we shared will work either at this time.

### **Awards Ceremony**

A link will be shared for the awards presentation on Friday, May 22, 2020. Awards and scholarships for Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors will be announced.

### **Teacher Appreciation Week**

Next week, May 3-9, 2020 is Teacher Appreciation Week. If you would please email, call, text or make a TikTok for a teacher and tell them “Thank You,” I would greatly appreciate it. The teachers at Newman have done an amazing job of transitioning to remote learning and trying to meet the needs of all of their students. They miss their students and wish we could all be together soon. I say “Thank You” to all teachers for all that you do for kids. God Bless you all!

### **Item Drop-off and Pick-up**

Newman will be cleaning out student lockers, placing them in bags and then tagging them with student names. Students then will come through the circle drive where they will drop off textbooks, technology or any item that belongs to Newman and we will give students their bag of items and any other items that we have in our possession that belongs to the student.

Seniors - Drop-off dates will be May 20, 21 and 22, 2020. A Google Doc will be shared to sign-up for a time. Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors - Drop-off dates will be May 26, 27, 28 and 29, 2020. A Google Doc will be shared to sign-up for a time as well.

### **Softball Raffle Tickets**

The Lady Comet Softball team is raffling off a variety of baskets. Contact any softball player or Jean Morthland for raffle tickets.

### **Nate’s Masks**

I am putting in a plug for our own Newman student, Mr. Nate Neubauer. Nate is selling masks for anyone who is interested. You can find information about his masks at <https://natesmasks.com/> Please support Nate in his entrepreneurial endeavor.

Wishing and praying that all of you are well!

God Bless,

Jennifer L. Oetting  
Principal