

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Graduating Senior:

Congratulations on the completion of your high school education at St. Francis Prep. Despite the challenges of the past 15 months, you did good work. Well done. We come now to your well-deserved ceremonies and celebrations to mark this transition. My letter is about Graduation Mass and Graduation. There is much information here. Please read this letter carefully and together. It is essential we follow all directives and guidelines.

**Graduation Mass:** A few weeks ago, we sent home an email about the Graduation Mass, asking families to indicate their intention to attend. We are excited so many of you will be joining us. Because of changes in Department of Health guidelines, we are moving the location of the Mass. This is information about the Graduation Mass.

- The Mass will take place on Thursday, 17 June, at 5:00 p.m. in St. Kevin's Church: 45-21 194<sup>th</sup> Street, Flushing. The Mass is inside the Church.
- We are still limiting attendance to the student and one or two guests, depending on what you responded.
- Attire for the Mass is formal.
- I have included a link to the COVID screening questions. Please be sure to answer these so you know it is safe for you to attend.
- All participants must wear a mask while in the Church. There will be no social distancing requirement inside the Church.
- Immediately following the Mass, there will be a short awards ceremony. The Mass and awards ceremony will be finished by 6:30 p.m.
- Please plan to arrive with sufficient time to park. There is a small parking lot at the Church; most people will have to park on the street.
- There are a limited number of handicap accessible parking spots. Families needing special accommodations should contact Security at 718-423-8810, ext. 301, by 4 June.

### **Graduation**

- Graduation will take place on the Great Lawn at St. John's University on Sunday, 20 June.
- Because of Department of Health guidelines, there will be two ceremonies:
  - 8:30 a.m.: Cors 401-409. Please arrive at 7:30 a.m.

○ 12:00 noon: Cors 410-418. Please arrive at 11:00 a.m.

- Families should enter through Gate 1 on Utopia Parkway and proceed to the Great Lawn as directed by St. John's University security.
- Upon arrival at the Great Lawn, students will be directed to their seats by St. Francis Prep faculty and staff.
- Students must wear formal attire beneath their graduation gowns.
- Students will be walking on grass at times. Please be mindful of this fact when selecting footwear.
- Students may not carry bags or backpacks. Students may carry a bottle of water. No umbrellas are allowed.
- All students and guests, regardless of age, must provide proof of a negative COVID test, immunization, or full recovery with documentation.
- All students and guests must show a "green pass" to enter St. John's University. Please use the St. John's University Connect app. Details about the app are below.
- St. John's University will not accept paper proof. The only way to enter for graduation is by using their Connect app.
- A ticket for entry is required for all graduates and guests. Students will receive 3 tickets: 1 for the graduate and 2 for guests.
- Students will pick up their tickets at St. Francis Prep on Thursday, 3 June. I have listed the pick-up times and locations at the end of this letter.

The Graduation Mass and Graduation are the culmination of 4 years of good work. We look forward to sharing these important milestones with the students and their families. Enjoy both ceremonies. Take care. God bless us all.

Sincerely,

Patrick McLaughlin

Principal

**PROOF OF NEGATIVE COVID TEST, IMMUNIZATION, OR FULL RECOVERY**

All attendees (guests, graduates, faculty, and staff) are required to provide this documentation.

- All individuals must present proof immediately upon arrival to Graduation of a recent negative diagnostic test result collected within 72 hours of the event or proof of completed immunization at least 14 days prior to the event.
  - Individuals who have fully recovered from a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 3 months and who do not have any recent or current symptoms are not required to produce a recent negative diagnostic test result but must provide proof of illness and recovery (e.g., proof of a prior positive test result or completed order of isolation within the last 90 days).
  - Any individual who fails to present a negative diagnostic test result or proof of immunization as required must be denied entry to the event.
- \* The New York State Excelsior Pass app is an easy tool to show your negative test or proof of vaccine. Sign up here: <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/excelsior-pass>

All guests must have valid identification.

### HEALTH SCREENING

Everyone attending Graduation is required to complete the St. John's University Health Screening and show a "green pass" in order to enter.

Attendees must receive a health screening questionnaire prior to the event. Download the St. John's University Connect app <https://connect.stjohns.edu/onboarding/select/role> in the Android or iPhone app store. Click here <https://bit.ly/COVID19visitorscreening> for step by step help.

We strongly encourage you to download the app and setup your account prior to ceremony date.

Entry to the event must be denied to any attendee who fails the health screening questionnaire.