



WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN ...

... IT IS TIME TO GO “BACK TO SCHOOL”?

The **Secular Calendar** tells us that it is the Summer Season (Autumn begins with the Autumnal Equinox on 21 September), and the **Liturgical Calendar** tells us that it is Ordinary Time Season (Advent Season begins 01 December 2019, Christmas Season begins 25 December, the Holy Season of Lent begins 22 February 2020, and the Glorious Season of Easter begins on 02 April 2020. And while we are indeed in the midst of those two seasons, Freeporters and many others reading this *Message from the Pastor* find themselves in the midst of two other Seasons: **Back to School Season** and **Hurricane Season**.



One week removed from last Sunday’s question in the bulletin: **11 September 2001–11 September 2019: “What Lessons Have We Learned”**, the combination of “Back to School Season” and “Hurricane Season” provides this Pastor of souls with an opportunity to invite the flock entrusted to his care to check their priorities. Yes, the Liturgical Season and even the Secular Season with their celebrations of Holy Days such as Christmas and Easter, provide that same opportunity, but in those Seasons, it is readily expected that a Pastor would ask the flock to check their priorities as they prepare for Christmas and Easter (or more importantly as they prepare for the Christ of Christmas and the Christ of Easter), but it is not so readily clear how “back to school” readiness and Hurricane Season readiness teach us about our priorities.

In order to help you make that connection, consider two questions; the first: **“What do you do when preparing to go back to school?”** When making those preparations are you more concerned about getting your child (or yourself) the “hottest” or the “coolest” sneakers/shoes/pants/dresses/skirts/shirts, and the “latest” (for how long?) iPhone/android/smartphone/tablet/laptop/earpods than you are about the notebooks, pencils, dictionaries, lunch boxes, and school bags (not to mention the Bible, the Rosary Beads, and the Holy Water)? And the second: **“What do you do when preparing for a hurricane?”** Are you more concerned about the milk, the bread, the water, the candles, the flashlights and batteries than you are the salvation of your soul: seeking reconciliation with God, a spouse, a sibling, or a friend – just in case of course ...



ASHLESS WEDNESDAYS

You can *come home* for Ash Wednesday,
 why not *come home* for Mass
 (7:30 A.M. or 12:10 P.M.) *every* Wednesday?
 And, while it may not be Lent, it is always
 time to, “Repent and believe in the Gospel.”

