February 14, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

On March 7, 2022, Governor Murphy’s Executive Order 251, requiring all in our schools to wear masks, will end. As of that date, all Catholic schools in the Diocese of Paterson will no longer require students, faculty, and staff to wear masks. Masks are optional and parents will determine if they want their children to continue to wear a mask or choose to be mask free.

The decline in the progression of the COVID virus coupled with the availability of vaccinations from the ages of five years old and forward are such that a change in mask requirements is now appropriate.

Vaccination is still recommended as protection against COVID-19. We ask our parents to continue to act responsibly and keep their children home if they are sick or experiencing COVID-like symptoms or are required to quarantine due to close contact.

In light of the Governor’s announcement, we may expect to hear additional changes to health and safety precautions when the NJ Department of Health informs us of any updates to COVID-19 guidance for our schools. We also will remain prepared to make adjustments if additional protections, such as wearing masks, are necessary in the future. We will continue to employ mitigation strategies to manage the virus. All parents will be informed about expectations for the students if and when health and safety guidelines change.

The health and safety of our schools are of the utmost importance to us as well as students’ ability to remain in school for in-person learning. Together in partnership we will achieve this. Thank you for your cooperation, support, and commitment to our schools.

May God keep each of you safe and well in His loving embrace as I continue to keep you in my prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Mary D. Baier
Superintendent of Schools