



**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
DEPARTMENT OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

March 12, 2020

VIA E-MAIL

Dear Catholic School Parents and Guardians,

Please be reassured that the safety and well-being of our students and employees is always our top priority. I write this letter out of an abundance of caution and there is no reason to believe COVID-19 is an immediate threat to our schools. This is a rapidly developing situation and we will continue to act in the best interest of our students as additional information comes to light. Our schools are currently following comprehensive guidance issued by the Archdiocese of Detroit, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Michigan Department of Education.

To that end, our schools are currently undertaking mitigation strategies that include:

- Student education about COVID-19 and preventive hygiene practices
- Regular and diligent disinfecting of classrooms and common areas of school
- Minimizing the number of large group gatherings such as school masses, assemblies, and after school extracurricular activities.
- Indefinitely cancelling all school trips and non-essential after school activities until further notice (information regarding athletic competitions will be issued by CYO and the CHSL).

You can help in the following ways:

- Immediately report any confirmed COVID-19 cases to your school administrator
- Keep your child at home if s/he is not feeling well
- Practice recommended preventive measures in your home
- Visit a physician if you think you may have been exposed to COVID-19
- Maintain a normal routine and remain calm in the presence of heightened anxiety

Principals and teachers are currently developing school-specific distance learning plans in the event of an extended school closure. **Classes on Friday, March 13 and Monday, March 16 will be canceled in all Archdiocese of Detroit Catholic Schools to allow school staff time to prepare for this possible event and to complete additional deep cleaning of all school**

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facilities. Details of these plans will vary from school to school and they will be shared with parents by the school administration at a future date.

Any decision to close a school would be made on a case-by-case basis and will be made in coordination with the local health department and the Department of Catholic Schools.

As this situation continues to evolve and additional information emerges, your school's administrator will communicate important updates and plans with you. As a community of faith, please join together in praying for all those affected by this disease.

For additional updates from the Archdiocese of Detroit, please visit: aod.org/emergencyresponse

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin D. Kijewski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Kevin D. Kijewski, J.D.
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Cc: The Most Reverend Allen Vigneron, Ph.D.
The Very Reverend Jeffrey Day, V.G.