



**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE
DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD**

65 ELLIOT STREET
P.O. Box 1730
SPRINGFIELD, MA 01102-1730
TELEPHONE: 413.452.0830 FACSIMILE: 413.452.0555



March 16, 2020

Dear Catholic School Families:

May God's peace be with you. It is clear the situation regarding COVID-19 is constantly evolving. On Sunday, Governor Baker declared a three-week suspension of all public and private K-12 schools in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Last week, Catholic schools in the Diocese of Springfield enacted a plan for all Catholic schools to transition to remote learning through March 27, 2020. Because of Governor Baker's announcement, Catholic schools will remain closed for a minimum of three weeks, currently scheduled to reopen on April 7, 2020. The Catholic Schools Office will continue to monitor the State's response to this situation and recommend action based on any new information or mandates.

A link to a press release regarding Governor Baker's decision is below:

<https://www.mass.gov/news/baker-polito-administration-announces-emergency-actions-to-address-covid-19>

In preparation for what seemed to be inevitable with respect to school closures, all Diocesan Catholic schools began to transition to remote learning effective today, Monday, March 16, 2020. This will continue through April 6, 2020. As a result, your school leaders should have begun sending you updated information regarding your school's transition to remote instruction. The Catholic Schools Office is also currently developing additional directives, resources, and support for the Catholic schools to assure that students continue learning at home in the most reasonable and anxiety free manner. Resources for families who are now assisting much more directly with their own children's education will be posted shortly on the Diocese of Springfield's Catholic School Facebook Page. A link is below:

<https://www.facebook.com/CatholicSchoolsSpringfield>

Each school has provided support and direction to their teachers regarding the implementation of remote instruction. If you have any questions regarding your school's plan for remote instruction please contact your child's teachers or principals. If the mode of delivery from your school is difficult to sustain due to a lack of resources or other restrictions, please contact your principal to discuss ways to ensure that your children continue learning at home effectively.

As a community of faith, please join us, starting tomorrow March 17, 2020 in praying a three-day Novena to St. Joseph for healing and a quick resolution to this unprecedented situation. The prayer finishes on St. Joseph's Feast Day, a day we fervently pray will mark the end of this pandemic.

Remember, O most chaste spouse of the Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who implored your help and sought your intercession were left unassisted. Full of confidence in your power I fly unto you and beg your protection. Despise not O Guardian of the Redeemer my humble supplication, but in your bounty, hear and answer me. Amen.

May the Lord bless and keep us all in His tender loving care through this difficult time.

In Christ through Mary,

Daniel R. Baillargeon, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Diocese of Springfield

Pax Christi,

Joshua Agnew
Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Diocese of Springfield