



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

March 13, 2020

VIA E-MAIL

Dear Catholic School Parents and Guardians,

Late last night, Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced that in order to slow the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), she has ordered the closure of all K-12 school buildings, public, private, and boarding, to all students starting Monday, March 16 until Sunday, April 5. School buildings are scheduled to reopen on Monday, April 6.

As I shared in my [last letter with you](#), the Archdiocese of Detroit cancelled classes for Friday, March 13 and Monday, March 16 for the purposes of deep cleaning of school facilities and to prepare for the implementation of distance learning plans. As we have maintained at the start of the Coronavirus situation, we are committed to following local, state, and federal health and government officials. As a result, we will augment our approach to faithfully execute Governor Whitmer's order to ensure the safety, health, and welfare of all students and school employees.

Given this unprecedented circumstance, I have instructed all 87 Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Detroit to undertake the following actions:

- Schools will move their customary Easter Break (April 13 – 17) to the week of March 16 - 20. Students will not need to report physically or virtually to school at this time.
- For the week of March 16 – 20 where school is not in session, instructional staff will report to their schools for the purpose of preparing for the successful execution and implementation of their distance learning plans.
- For the week of March 16 – 20, schools will also timely communicate with parents their distance learning plans tailored for their children.
- Students and instructional staff will commence work on their distance learning work on Monday, March 23 and will conclude work on Friday, April 3.
- Provided that there is no extension or modification of Governor Whitmer's order, students will return to schools on April 6 – 8 followed by two days off for Holy Thursday and Good Friday (April 9 and 10).
- Students and instructional staff will return on April 13 for their first full week of school.
- For additional updates from the Archdiocese of Detroit, please visit: aod.org/emergencyresponse

UNLEASH THE GOSPEL

Please be reassured that the safety and well-being of our students and employees is always our top priority. If and when additional developments occur, the Archdiocese of Detroit and your local school will communicate those with you in a timely way.

Invoking Blessed Solanus Casey's famous phrase, "we thank God ahead of time" for a successful end to the Coronavirus situation. In addition to exercising prudent judgment during these times, I ask that you [join the faithful around the archdiocese in prayer](#) for an end to Coronavirus. As [Archbishop Vigneron has said](#), "people of prayer are never helpless – never hopeless."

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin D. Kijewski". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

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