



**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT ❖ OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS & CENTERS**  
Pastoral Center ❖ PO Box 40200 ❖ St. Petersburg, FL, 33743-0200 ❖ PH: 727-347-5539 ❖ Fax: 727-341-6848

---

March 13, 2020

Dear Catholic School Parents and Guardians,

The health and safety of our families is our top priority. Our diocesan office and school leaders have been closely monitoring the development of the Coronavirus disease (Covid-19) and the attempts of our public health organizations to address it. **In an abundance of caution for our students, employees, and vulnerable populations, Bishop Gregory Parkes has directed that all Catholic Schools and Early Childhood center buildings will be closed to students from Monday, March 16 through Friday, March 20. We will conduct virtual school days Wednesday through Friday.**

The virtual learning days will be conducted using a variety of resources provided by your school. Your child's teachers will communicate with you via email or the appropriate learning platform. We are considering these as regular school days, so please pay special attention to how your school instructs you concerning online attendance. If your child does not have access to this online environment, you should contact the teacher/school directly. Our schools have trained for this possibility and are ready to move forward. This will allow us the opportunity to continue learning and conduct a deep cleaning of our schools without students present.

As of now, all after-school and athletic events are canceled until students return to regular on-site classes. Field trips and any large school gatherings (galas, auctions, dances, etc.) are canceled or postponed until at least April 17. Decisions concerning further closings/virtual days will be made at a later date. Please note that our current Easter vacation (April 13-17) may be impacted.

Regarding travel, we will be enforcing policies consistent with [CDC guidelines](#) and self-quarantine situations. These are changing each day, so please continue to inform yourself. If you or a family member contract Covid-19, we ask you to communicate with your school to keep everyone safe.

We ask for your patience and assistance during this unprecedented situation. We understand the difficulty this action will have for many families. However, we believe it's the right thing to do. Let's continue to [pray](#) for one another and remain calm in the peace of Christ during this time.

Sincerely in Christ,

Christopher L. Pastura  
Superintendent of Catholic Schools and Centers