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ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

March 22, 2020

Dear Pastors, Archdiocesan Administrators (Grades pre-K through 12) and Directors of Religious Education,

Following the announcement of a stay-at-home order, **the Archdiocese of St. Louis will extend the closure of all archdiocesan elementary and high schools—including all grades pre-K through 12—from now through Wednesday, April 22.** Pending continuing updates and guidance from local and state government and health officials, we have preliminary plans to allow teachers to return on Thursday, April 23, and students to return on Monday, April 27.

As I have shared with you, the closing of our schools is the best path forward to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus in our area. Along with archdiocesan leadership, I understand that we are in difficult times. The Office of Catholic Education and Formation has been working hard to support all of you and will be following this letter with additional information to help navigate these changes.

The Archdiocese of St. Louis will continue to support you in the countless challenges that this current situation presents. The latest public statements and information from the archdiocese regarding COVID-19 can be found at archstl.org/coronavirus.

Our Heavenly Father has given us a new challenge in this season of Lent. This is a moment to demonstrate our strength as a faith-based community and to make the sacrifices needed to rise to this occasion. As we are asked to separate physically, I ask that we all come together spiritually in prayer for all those who are ill, all healthcare professionals, and all of those who are working to help ensure the safety and health of our community. Pray for our priests who are at the front lines of this virus spiritually. And, pray for each other as you continue to guide our children and families in receiving a quality, faith-based education. Please know that I continue to pray for all of you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson
Archbishop of St. Louis

The Office of Communications and Planning encourages you to monitor the social media accounts of Archbishop Robert J. Carlson, the Archdiocese of St. Louis and the St. Louis Review for the most up to date information regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19) in the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

Archbishop Robert J. Carlson [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)
Archdiocese of St. Louis [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#)
St. Louis Review [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)