



Dear Catholic School Community and Supporters,

During the week of January 31 through February 6, our Catholic schools will be celebrating Catholic Schools Week. Without the steadfast support of our families and parishes, our schools would not be able to spread the Message of Christ. Contributions to the Christ Mission Appeal also play an important role in supporting the essential work that our schools are engaged in. On behalf of all of our schools, we wanted to thank you for your support and share the following information with you.

All Catholic Schools to Join Together in Prayer / Supported Through Masses for Their Intentions:

- At 1:00 p.m., on Monday, February 1, students, staff and faculty in all of our Catholic schools in the Diocese of Saginaw will join in prayer together. Although daily prayer is a common occurrence in our schools, on the first school day of Catholic Schools week, we are making a special effort to bring all of our schools together through our Faith. This small act is a reminder that there are thousands of students and staff members spread across our Diocese engaged in growing our Faith and fostering the intellectual development of our future Catholic leaders. Link to prayer video can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/506180235>
- Beginning in January and through the end of the current school year, at least one Mass every week has been and will be offered up for students, teachers, support staff, and administrators by pastors associated with Catholic Schools in our diocese. With all the challenges that our schools have faced with COVID-19, we could think of no better way to support them than by celebrating Masses for them and their intentions. (These Masses are in addition to the regular Masses celebrated at our schools.)

COVID Safety:

- In the spring and summer of 2020, a Diocese of Saginaw Back to School Task Force gathered virtually to support our schools and our strong desire to safely provide in-person learning. Every Catholic school was represented in the group, which consisted of over 40 community members and educators. The task force focused on four main areas: faith and wellness, instruction, operations, and facilities. A Diocesan Preparedness plan was created and shared with our schools. Each school also created a building specific plan.
- Our overall infection rate for students and staff across the diocese through mid-December was 2.4%. The infection rate for students in preschool through 12th grade was 1.6%. This relatively low rate is in large part due to the mitigation strategies that our schools implemented, which in many cases, exceeded the requirements established by the state.
- In addition to the new students that enrolled at the beginning of the school year, over 40 additional students joined our Catholic school community during the first semester. This is, in part, a result of our ability to safely provide in-person learning.
- Catholic school staff and faculty have begun to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Distribution and access varies by county based on availability.

Welcome Scholarship:

- Launched in the 2019-20 academic year, the Welcome Scholarship continues to support students and families that seek a high-quality, faith-based education. As of mid-January, 2021, over 353 students have benefited from the scholarship. This scholarship was the result of a \$100,000 gift from the Wolohan Foundation, with a matching contribution from the Diocese. (More information on the Welcome Scholarship can be found at <https://www.saginaw.org/welcome-scholarship>)

For more information or to support our Catholic Schools, please contact the Office of Catholic Schools at 989-767-6651
Or visit: <https://saginaw.org/our-schools> - <https://saginaw.org/catholic-schools/cfmm-and-catholic-schools>