



# ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

---

Archdiocesan Pastoral Center: 5001 Eastern Avenue, Hyattsville, MD 20782-3447  
Mailing Address: Post Office Box 29260, Washington, DC 20017-0260  
301-853-4500 TDD 301-853-5300

March 18, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Cases of the coronavirus (COVID-19) continue to rise in our area, and are expected to do so in the coming weeks. As you know both Maryland and the District have ordered their public schools to be closed for two weeks and the Archdiocese of Washington will continue to follow their local jurisdictions. As of this Wednesday, March 17 at 5:00 pm, our school buildings were closed to everyone with the exception of essential personnel. Every school will be thoroughly cleaned in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines. Please continue to work with your school for information regarding their academic enrichment plan during this closure. All schools are preparing for the possibility of extended campus closures, as we await updates from our state and local governments.

While your school is experiencing a temporary campus closure, there are many digital resources for families to utilize while at home. Particularly, when in-school learning is not possible, using research-based digital education programs at home can help children stay engaged, provide them valuable learning experiences, and maintain some continuity in their lives. In addition, our students participate in prayer throughout their regular school day. Continuing this ritual while they are at home, may benefit the entire family:

- [Teaching Catholic Kids - Catholic Prayers](#)
- [Family Prayers - Loyola Press](#)
- [ADW Catholic Schools Family Resources](#)
- [NCEA Lenten family resources](#)
- [Scholastic Learn at Home](#)
- [150+ Educational Shows on Netflix](#)
- [Amazing Online Educational Resources](#)
- [Common Sense Media Coronavirus Resources](#)
- [Non-Screen Activities at Home](#)

Worries about the coronavirus, sudden school closure and the uncertainty of what to expect in the coming weeks may cause more anxiety in children. When kids worry, it is helpful for them to have some time to talk about what they are thinking and to let them ask questions about what is happening. Click on this [link](#) to view a video and for simple advice for how to do so. Click [here](#) for resources in Spanish. You can also minimize anxiety by creating a weekday routine that includes getting up and dressed, at a designated time, starting the day with prayer, eating breakfast and lunch, incorporating breaks from electronics, and time for work and play. This [video](#) offers some ideas for how to get started. Being together all day, in close quarters, can also lead to increased conflict between siblings. Read [here](#) for how to use the “Family Peace Rose” to model conflict resolution and create a way for them to work through their disagreements.

Parents and Guardians

Page Two

March 18, 2020

We continue to stress the importance of slowing the spread of this virus and protecting the health of our community. Please maintain preventive measures by avoiding being exposed to this virus. Frequent handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes, and cleaning surfaces are ways of protecting yourself and others. Social distancing refers to keeping a distance of at least 6 feet between you and others. It is strongly recommended to avoid gathering or socializing at this time. However, social distancing does not mean disconnecting. You are encouraged to keep in touch with family and friends through phone calls and social media. We can all make a major impact in preventing the spread of COVID-19 by following these measures and those provided to us by local health departments and governments.

Please continue to pray for the health and safety of our school communities, families, and friends.

Sincerely In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Ryan", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bill Ryan  
Secretary for Catholic Schools