

THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MEMPHIS  
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March 12, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

All principals of our Catholic parish and diocesan schools and of the independent Catholic Schools were invited to a meeting today to discuss the situation with the coronavirus (COVID-19). Those attending were able to share the different challenges of how decisions will affect not only our students, but our extended families and communities.

Our children are the greatest gift we have from God and with that in mind we will be taking a proactive approach to how we will address the current situation. These decisions are not made lightly, understanding that any change in our school schedule will cause some significant temporary disruptions in the lives of our faculties, staffs, students, and families.


The Catholic Diocese of Memphis schools in Shelby County will be extending Spring break for the students for an additional five days (March 16-20). Our faculties and staffs will report next week to prepare our contingency plan for curriculum and instruction.


- An announcement on the status of classes for the week of March 23, 2020, will be posted at noon on Thursday, March 19, on all diocesan platforms.
- Faculty and staff will use next week to prepare for educating all students should classroom instruction need to continue remotely.
- To avoid the loss of instructional days, we will be using the days we have set aside for inclement weather (snow days).
- As of Friday, March 13, all athletics and other extracurricular activities are suspended for the duration of this next week. Athletics and extracurriculars will resume only when classroom instruction resumes.

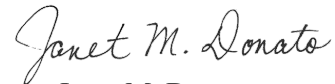
Although at this time there are **no known cases of COVID-19** in our schools, we believe that extending our Spring break, and considering the possibility of remote education, is in the best interest of our schools and communities to minimize the possibility of infection.

We thank you for your support and understanding as we navigate through these next few weeks. Schools included in this are: Holy Rosary, Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Incarnation, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, St. Ann, St. Benedict, St. Francis, St. Louis and St. Paul. If your school is not listed, please visit their website.

St. Joseph, Protector of Families, pray for us!

  
Bishop David P. Talley  
Diocese of Memphis

  
Fr. Robert W. Marshall  
Vicar General

  
Janet M. Donato  
Superintendent of Schools