



March 13, 2020

Dear Parents,

Each day brings new developments regarding the corona virus – COVID-19. Maintaining safe and healthy environments remains our top priority for our students, families, teachers, and parish at large. We have been actively monitoring the ongoing updates and guidelines as provided by the [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\)](https://www.cdc.gov) and the [Illinois Department of Public Health \(IDPH\)](https://www.idph.state.il.us) as well as the local Public Health and School District updates as they become available

HEALTH

Health officials are currently taking steps to prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19 into US communities. This interim guidance is based on *what is currently* known about the transmission and severity of “coronavirus disease 2019” - (COVID-19). These guidelines aim to help childcare programs, schools, and partners to react quickly should a case be identified. These public health mandates require each of us to do our part to minimize the spread of this virus - so with this in mind we ask that you institute the follow practices:

- If you do not feel well – [Stay home](#) - (This includes going to Mass)
- If you have someone in your household or extended family who is sick – Stay home
- If you have acquaintance or proximity with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 contact your medical professional and self-quarantine until advised by your medical professional
- [Practice proper hand washing: \(Tips to help children develop good handwashing habits \)](#)
 - Avoid touching your face: eyes, nose, mouth
 - Cover when you [cough or sneeze](#), properly dispose of the tissue and wash your hands.
 - Consult the CDC Website for how to prevent the spread within communities [Preventing COVID-19](#)
 - Make plans know for you and your family to be prepared.

COMMUNICATION

As we go forward all parties: parents, schools, programs, cities, state and the CDC will continue to collaborate, and share information. Good communication is key, and accurate information is critical. The resources sited in this email are such resources. We have asked all entities Principals, Directors of Religious Education and Youth Ministers to stay in close communication with us regarding any COVID-19 instances and we ask your support in this effort as well. Please make sure that all schools/programs have your best and most correct contact information on file. And to facilitate having this conversation with your children, here are two more resources from the CDC: [Talking with Children About COVID-19](#) and [Parents: Get Your Children Ready for Coronavirus Disease 2019](#). Please join us in praying daily to Our Lord Jesus Christ for all who are affected by this virus and all illnesses.

Sincerely,

Ryan Purcell

Director of the Office of Youth Formation