



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS
Office of Communications and Planning

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Archbishop Robert J. Carlson Announces Closure of All Archdiocese of St. Louis Schools Starting March 18

The Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson, Archbishop of St. Louis, has announced that **the Archdiocese of St. Louis will close all archdiocesan elementary and high schools—including all grades pre-K through 12—beginning Wednesday March 18**. Pending continuing updates and guidance from local and state government and health officials, the archdiocese has preliminary plans to resume school on Monday, April 6.

All extracurricular activities at the schools will be postponed or canceled, including athletics.

Archbishop Carlson explained that both our physical and spiritual health go hand-in-hand, and the health, safety and overall well-being of the people of the archdiocese is his first priority.

“The impact of COVID-19 continues to grow every day, and I realize that all of us are greatly concerned about our own personal health, the health of our families, and of others whom we love, and we should be. In light of this and other announcements, our lives are being impacted in ways that most of us could have never imagined. As people of faith, we must continue to pull together to generously support one another.

I ask that the faithful of our archdiocesan school community and the entire Archdiocese of St. Louis join with me as we pray for all those who are ill, all healthcare professionals, and all of those who are working tirelessly to help ensure the safety and health of our community.

In this season of Lent, I ask that we also increase our prayers, fasting, and almsgiving so that the Heavenly Father will continue to pour forth His love, strength, and protection upon us as we move through the challenges and uncertainty brought about by COVID-19. Mary, Health of the Sick and our Mother, pray for us.”

- **Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson**
Archbishop of St. Louis

All Archdiocese of St. Louis schools are implementing e-learning and home-schooling programs, and all employees of our schools will continue to be paid without interruption.

Children and families who depend on schools for food are encouraged to seek assistance through [The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of St. Louis](#) (314) 881-6000), and [Catholic Charities of St. Louis](#) (314) 367-5500).

The Archdiocese of St. Louis will maintain contact with health officials for guidance in all decisions, and reiterate to our parishes, schools and staff the importance of reviewing the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website regularly, staying home if one is sick, following hygiene and travel guidelines from health officials, and reporting any pertinent information to the local health department. We will continue to monitor official health advisories and update directives accordingly.

Please direct questions to communications@archstl.org.

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