



Office for Schools

November 17, 2020

Dear Catholic School Parents,

Blessings to you and your families as we approach Advent—the season of patient waiting for the coming of our Savior.

At the same time, we are also waiting for this persistent pandemic to end.

Case rates in both San Diego and Imperial Counties have continued to climb in recent weeks. We are pleased to report that our Catholic schools have responded magnificently. Each school reporting an individual case of COVID-19 in our diocese has quickly identified, isolated, and quarantined these members without any viral transmission on campuses. Each has also worked closely with local public health officials to implement the safest plan of action with such occurrences. **That said, with the holidays coming up, we need to remain vigilant of our responsibility to the other members of our school communities when it comes to gatherings and other public activities.**

When making your holiday plans, please refer to the following updated guidance provided by our local, state, and federal public health officials:

- [Guidance for Thanksgiving and the Holidays](#) from San Diego Health & Human Services Agency
- [Travel Advisory](#) for all Californians, as well as [Guidance for the Prevention of COVID-19 Transmission for Gatherings](#), from the California Department of Public Health
- [Guidance on holiday celebrations](#) from the Center for Disease Control & Prevention

I know we are all going through “COVID-fatigue,” but adherence to these guidelines is critical to ensuring a safe return to campuses following this holiday season.

One of my favorite Christmas hymns is “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” because it reminds us that the coming of “Emmanuel” means that “God is with us.” I can’t think of a more beautiful thought to keep in mind as we prepare for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Our Catholic school families and the world at large remain in our prayers

In Mission,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Galvan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Galvan
Director, Office for Schools
Diocese of San Diego