

Nov. 27, 2020

Superintendent's Update: Students, Parents/Legal Guardians, and Staff

We look forward to celebrating another [Advent season](#), which begins this Sunday (Nov. 29) and runs until Dec. 24. As the start of the Church's liturgical calendar, this is a time to ponder the great mystery of the incarnation, when God took on our humanity in the Person of Jesus Christ, entering time and space to free us from sin and to conquer death. As Father William Saunders said, "During Advent, we strive to fulfill the opening prayer for Mass of the First Sunday of Advent: 'Father in Heaven, ...increase our longing for Christ, our Saviour, and give us the strength to grow in love that the dawn of His coming may find us rejoicing in His presence and welcoming the Light of His Truth.'"<sup>1</sup> There is [more information about Advent, and a blessing for a wreath](#), on our website.

As noted in the [special update](#) that I shared on Nov. 25, Premier Jason Kenney [declared](#) a **state of public health emergency** in Alberta on Nov. 24. The Alberta Government has established stronger [mandatory, province-wide public health measures](#) to help slow down the spread of the COVID-19. We continue to work closely with both medical and government authorities, as well as surrounding school jurisdictions, to enact measures that comply with public health guidelines and help mitigate the risks of further transmission.

As a reminder, students will transition to at-home learning on **Nov. 30 (grades 7 to 12)** and **Jan. 4 (Pre-K to grade 6)**. Unless directed otherwise by the province, **in-person classes for all students will resume on Jan. 11**. Junior and senior high school principals have sent communication to parents/legal guardians, outlining what this process will look like in their child(ren)'s respective schools. Elementary school principals will send similar information to families before online learning for Pre-K to grade 6 students commences. If you have specific questions, please reach out to your child(ren)'s school directly.

All [public health measures](#) are described on the Alberta Government's [website](#). The [province has said](#) that, if followed, these measures will help to protect our health care system, keep schools and businesses open as much as possible, and protect vulnerable Albertans. Let us all take this issue seriously, each doing our part to respect and follow all health measures so that we can bend the curve and so students and staff can return to the classrooms as soon as possible.

We have updated our [Parent Guidebook for School Re-Entry: 2020-2021](#) and our [website](#), and following us on social media ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#)) is a great way to stay up-to-date. Your child(ren)'s school principal can best address your concerns as they apply to [your child\(ren\)'s school](#).

If challenges around COVID-19 are causing you or your child(ren) stress and hardship that are difficult to manage, please reach out for help. [This simple resource](#) provides succinct information on where you can turn for help, as does the Supporting Mental Health and Wellbeing section of the *Parent Guidebook*. You can also contact your child's school's principal, who can connect him or her with a professional school counselor, if needed.

Only six days remain to [purchase your tickets](#) for the [Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools Education Foundation's 50/50 Cash Raffle Fundraiser](#). The jackpot is now more than \$9,000 (and rising)! Half of the total funds raised will enable the Foundation to support school or classroom needs which demonstrate enhanced learning opportunities for students within Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools, evoke or promote student passion and engagement, support innovation within the classroom, and promote faith, the development of relationships with one another and with God, foster community spirit, and build hope, while the other half will make one lucky person happy! Thank you for your generous support of our students.

May we continue to seek the face of God as we face these changes and challenges. Let us also keep praying for one another and be mindful of the words of the Holy Apostle Paul in his letter to the Galatians:

*"So then, whenever we have the opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith." (Galatians 6:10)*

Have a wonderful weekend! Blessings.

Sincerely,

Dr. Clint Moroziuk  
Superintendent of Schools

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<sup>1</sup> Saunders, Rev. W. (2000). "The liturgical season of Advent." *Arlington Catholic Herald*.