



April 19, 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: Parents, Students, Staff

During Holy Week, our students, parents, and staff prayed together the Stations of the Cross, in which we observed how Jesus struggled, suffered, and was crucified on the cross. As we enter into the Easter weekend, our families will share in Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday masses online. We will do this to acknowledge Jesus' death and celebrate his resurrection.

Although we are observing masses online, we are still gathered collectively in our hearts and minds as "Easter People"—we know that we will each endure earthly struggles as we are now, but we also know that we have God on this journey and it does not end here; we have eternal life.

Throughout Holy Week, I thank you for working together as parents, students, teachers, support staff, and division staff to make our first couple of weeks in our online learning and faith journey successful. While I know there have been some "bumps" along the way (pacing, workload, frustration with technologies), I have been most impressed by comments I have heard about "everyone coming together and helping each other" and "how learning is happening at all levels." I have also enjoyed hearing what you are looking forward to this Easter weekend.

We have captured some of your thoughts in our [second community story video](#), which is posted on our website (gsacrd.ab.ca). We asked some students and staff to share what they like best about online learning, as well as what they like the most about Easter, and we are sharing their responses with our community.

We will continue to post stories weekly on [our website](#) and through our social media platforms. I encourage you to continue to share your own stories of faith and learning with us by email (communications@gsacrd.ab.ca) or on social media, using the hashtags #ABLearnAtHome, #GSACRDProud, and #GSACRDgrace. Be sure to tag GSACRD on [Facebook](#) (fb.com/gsacrd) and [Twitter](#) (@GSACRD) – and please follow and like GSACRD on social media, if you have not already done so.

Just as we continue to follow and implement the recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer and all levels of government, we encourage you to do the same. You can find credible and relevant health and safety information and important updates about COVID-19 as follows:

- [Government of Canada: https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html](https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html)
- [Alberta Government: https://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx](https://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx)
- [Alberta Health Services: https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page16944.aspx](https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page16944.aspx)
- [City of St. Albert: https://stalbert.ca/city/eps/preparedness/resources](https://stalbert.ca/city/eps/preparedness/resources)
- [World Health Organization \(WHO\): https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019](https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019)

I wish you and your loved ones a blessed Easter weekend. Please enjoy your time together and stay well.

Sincerely,

David Keohane
Superintendent of Schools