



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF LEXINGTON

THE CATHOLIC CENTER

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

16 December 2020

Dear Catholic School Families,

In this season of joyful anticipation for the birth of Christ, we are glad to see that a vaccination against the Covid-19 virus is beginning to be distributed in Kentucky which is an important step towards the end of this pandemic.

We know that the mandate to close our schools to in-person instruction around the time of Thanksgiving was a great disappointment and a source of frustration to all of our school communities. We share in the frustration that, despite all of the efforts made by our schools to create and maintain safe environments with great care, we had to interrupt the in-person instruction that was working so successfully. We share the belief of so many of our parents and school personnel that the classroom is the best place for our children to be at this time. We have read every one of the emails and messages that were sent and agree with so much of what was said even though the sheer volume of communication all at once did not make it feasible to respond to each.

Especially since the beginning of the school year, we have studied all of the recommendations from the Governor's office, the CDC, and the relevant state agencies. This has continued during the recent shutdown of in-person instruction and will continue throughout the pandemic. We also comply with state mandates as required.

Our plan at this time is **to resume in-person instruction on January 4, 2021** as long as our requirements for safety can be met. When counties are in a red zone, we will still be able to offer in-person instruction. At Lexington Catholic High School, this will involve the use of hybrid plan. In all of the schools, virtual options for learning will be available to students.

As we have all experienced, requirements and plans are subject to change in this time of pandemic.

Please be very careful about social distancing, social gathering, travel and anything else that could jeopardize our safe return in January. We pray that each of you has a blessed, joyful and safe Christmas.

Sincerely in Christ,

Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv.

Tom Brown, Superintendent