



November 19, 2020

*I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart;  
I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.  
-Psalm 9:1-*

Dear Families of the Archdiocese of San Francisco,

As we approach the Thanksgiving break, I am reminded that while it has been a challenging year, I have much to be thankful. I am thankful for our school administrators, staff, and teachers' incredible work in creating a school environment that is safe and educationally excellent both in our school buildings and through virtual learning. I am grateful for the effort, patience, and grace that has been shown by our students and families. School, as we once knew it, has undergone many changes, and we continue to adapt as needed.

I understand that in a typical year the Thanksgiving, and subsequent Christmas, break may be a time to travel and visit with family and friends; however, this year, I ask that you seriously consider your holiday plans and how they may affect the safety of our school communities. Unfortunately, we are not in a typical year, and our schools and communities are only as safe as we make them. I can honestly say that our schools remain one of the safest places for our students, but what happens outside of school dramatically affects what happens at school. In the coming weeks, we have to work together, individually and as a community, to model good behaviors to protect our community's health and help keep our schools open for in-person learning.

The most common way that COVID-19 spreads are through gatherings in the home. Please carefully review the Bay Area Region's Recommendations for Staying Safe from COVID-19 during the Holidays by clicking [here](#). Holiday travel is not recommended. Travel outside the Bay Area will increase your chance of getting infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 and spreading it to others after your return. Please carefully review the November 17, 2020, San Francisco County of Public Health Travel Advisory by clicking [here](#). San Mateo and Marin Counties have similar advisories in place.

I genuinely believe that the best place for our students is in their school buildings, and I much appreciate the trust you place in the Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of San Francisco every time you send your child to one of our schools. Please help your local school pastors, principals, teachers, and I keep our schools safe by following the guidelines outlined in the letter.

Yours in Christ,

Pamela Lyons  
Superintendent of Schools