



## Monthly Messenger – January 2021

Monthly Newsletter from the Secretary of Elementary  
Education



### Message from Dr. Andrew McLaughlin

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas season. I hope the break provided some much-needed rest and recuperations.

We have had many questions about the vaccine for COVID-19. As you know, the roll out was slower than anticipated, but I can give you some updates. Teachers will be included in Phase 1B. I have been assured that teachers from the Archdiocese will be included in this phase. This will include essential staff within the school, not just teachers. The roll out of the vaccine will be coordinated through the county Departments of Health. Some departments have already begun to reach out to schools to begin coordinating the logistics.

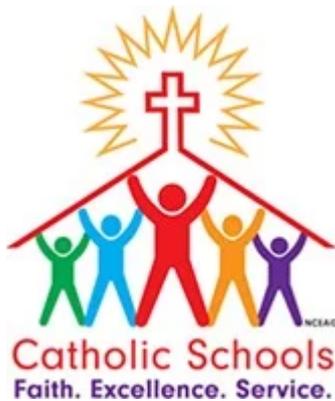
There is no firm date provided. Originally, we were told February but March may be more realistic. Since there is not yet a vaccine approved for children under the age 16, I do not see this being an issue for our students this school year. Hopefully, as the vaccines are delivered more widely, we will see a decrease in our daily numbers.

I understand how hard everyone is working. I get messages regularly from parents, principals and pastors expressing their admiration and appreciation for everything our school staffs do on a daily basis. Thank you for your continued dedication to Catholic Education and our students.

*Dr. Andrew McLaughlin*  
*Secretary of Elementary Education*

## Upcoming Events

- January 4 - Classes Resume
- January 12 - Phila South & Delaware Counties District Mtgs.
- January 13 - Phila North & Montgomery Counties District Mtgs.
- January 14 - Bucks & Chester Counties District Mtgs.
- January 18 - Martin Luther King Day (no school)
- January 19 - Early Childhood District Meeting
- January 31 - February 6 - National Catholic Schools Week



January 31 - February 6

### Celebrating Catholic Education

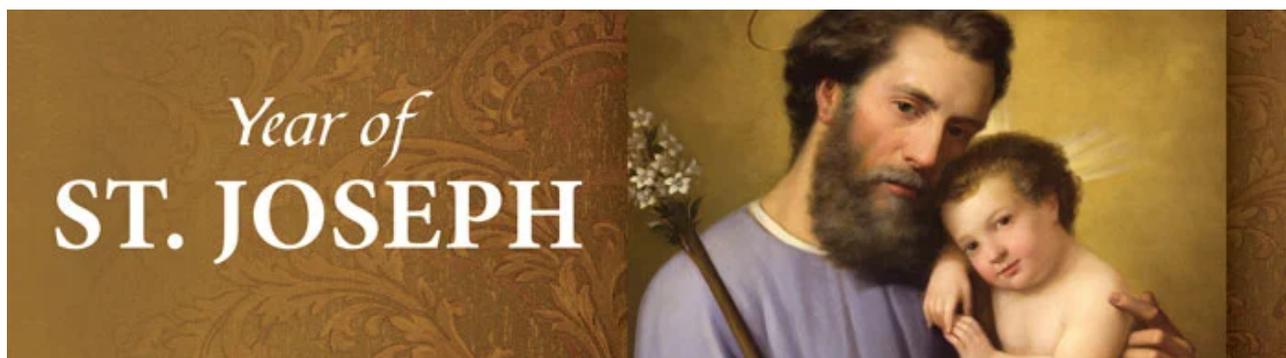
The current pandemic will make it a challenge to get your schools noticed during Catholic Schools Week. However, given the circumstances of the pandemic, we do have much to celebrate. The broader community (and the world) needs to hear of the Faith, Excellence and Service Catholic Schools have provided during these unsettled times:

- **Faith** – Our schools have continued to be centers of faith formation throughout the pandemic with daily religious instruction, liturgical celebrations, sacramental preparations and universal faith celebrations, such as our virtual May Procession, Rosary and Advent and Christmas celebrations.
- **Excellence** – While other area schools remained closed, we safely opened our doors using distancing and safety protocols to provide the students with in-person and hybrid learning models to insure that there would be as little a gap in student learning as possible.
- **Service** – Our teachers gave of themselves to learn new technologies. Our benefactors came to our support by providing needed equipment and safety shields. Our COVID task force met tirelessly to provide a protocol for a safe environment and continued learning.

We have a lot to celebrate during Catholic Schools Week! Check out the [Celebrate National Catholic School Week page](#) on the [AOP Elementary website](#) for the themes of each day for National Catholic Schools Week, along with many tips, ideas, suggested activities and resources to make the most of this week in a safe manner.

*Credit: [Sister Edward Quinn](#), Assistant Superintendent Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment*

## OCE Monthly Topic



### A Child's Prayer to Saint Joseph

*St. Joseph,*

*Watch over me and care for me just as you cared for the child Jesus;*

*and by your help may I come to know your Son,*

*and so grow in strength and wisdom and the favor of God.*

*Amen.*

St. Joseph was the husband of Mary, the mother of Jesus. According to the earliest Christian traditions, he was a carpenter or woodworker. The Gospel of Matthew calls him a "righteous man," meaning he was an observant Jew who obeyed God's law. ... [Read More](#)

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