

January 14, 2021

Dear Staff, Parents and Students at St. Michael Catholic Academy:

I wish to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy and Holy New Year.

I normally don't stay up until midnight to welcome in the new year. Being the year that it was, I found myself waiting for the moment this year that indicated that we had crossed the threshold and left the old one behind us. Not everything in the year that is past was bad and as positive as we need to be about the new one, it too will have its interesting challenges as it begins to unfold. Looking back, we had a year where there was a lot of time to reflect. We became more aware of our vulnerabilities and for many, time and energy has gone into refocusing our priorities. We were challenged to focus on what is really important.

The Covid experience has helped many people to slow down and to appreciate more the beauty and calm of prayer and silence. We have much to offer and moving forward, a challenge for all of us to reach beyond the wall of those on the periphery who have begun this journey of faith and honest seeking and to meet them where they are at.

Focussing on family, friends and faith encourages us to look at what we can do rather than what we cannot do in the weeks and months ahead.

The Sacrament of Confirmation will not be celebrated as scheduled. We will inform you as soon as we can reschedule.

First Holy Communion June 2021

First Holy Communion will be planned for Sunday June 6, with additional dates depending on number of candidates and pandemic situation.

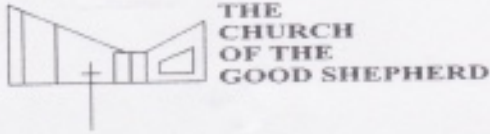
In these pandemic times, even though public Masses are temporarily cancelled, I wish to remind everyone, especially those preparing for the Sacrament, about the importance of partaking of the Holy Mass via online/streaming. Contact your local parish for more information.

May the New Born Christ Child, whose birth we celebrate, bless you in your efforts to bring these little ones closer to Him.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rev. Anthony". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

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Dear Mary, Mother of Jesus,
you always shine a light on us as a sign of love and hope.
You were present when your Son suffered for our sins.

Your love and faith is a reminder that you will always care
for the well-being & health of the sick.

Dear Mary, Mother of God,
You know what we need. Please keep us in your prayers.
We are sure you will provide so we may return to joy and
celebration after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to follow God's will and the Gospel teachings of Jesus.

May your son carry us through these difficult times and hold us in his loving arms.

Amen.