

# Archdiocese Celebrates Catholic Schools Week

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Catholic school students, their teachers, and their communities throughout the 19-county Archdiocese of Cincinnati are celebrating the 38th annual Catholic Schools Week January 29 through February 4 under the theme “Catholic Schools: Faith, Academics, Service.”

“During Catholic Schools Week, we recognize the tremendous success of our Catholic schools and their communities,” said Dr. Jim Rigg, Superintendent of Catholic Schools and Director of Educational Services. “I am always astounded by the incredible talents and dedication of our school students, teachers, and staff members. Catholic schools are thriving in the Archdiocese!”

More than 1,000 representatives from Greater Cincinnati Catholic schools will participate on Tuesday, January 31, as Most Rev. Daniel E. Pilarczyk, Archbishop Emeritus of Cincinnati, presides at a special 10 a.m. Catholic Schools Week Mass at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains, downtown Cincinnati. Catholic schools of the Miami Valley will celebrate this spring as Auxiliary Bishop Joseph R. Binzer presides at a Unity Mass at 10 a.m. April 25 at the University of Dayton Arena.

Pastors throughout the Archdiocese are asked to ring their church bells at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, February 1, which is also National Appreciation Day for Catholic Schools.

The 113 Catholic elementary and high schools in the Archdiocese will mark the week with special programs, such as open houses for parents and grandparents, out-of-uniform days, service projects, Masses, talent shows, special decorations, student-faculty games and entertainment.

In preparation for Catholic Schools Week, Cincinnati Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr will speak with Catholic high school students across the Archdiocese via videoconference at 11 a.m. Thursday, January 26. The Archbishop will convey his gratitude for Catholic schools and answer student questions through a live-streamed webcast from Carroll High School in Dayton.

Archbishop Schnurr also has recorded a special video message for Catholic Schools Week. It can be viewed at [http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/education/lighting\\_the\\_way](http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/education/lighting_the_way).

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cincinnati is the 38th largest Catholic diocese in the country, with almost 500,000 Catholics, and has the eighth largest Catholic school system in terms of enrollment – 43,263 students for the 2011-2012 school year.