



Catholic Schools Week 2026: United in Faith and Community

Dear members of the Catholic School Community in the Archdiocese of Baltimore,

Catholic Schools Week 2026 has certainly taken us by storm! I hope you and your families are safe, warm, and enjoying this special time together. It seems most appropriate that the theme for this Catholic Schools Week is "United in Faith and Community." As we begin this special week from our homes, we are keenly aware that we do so united in faith and community. Wherever we are, we celebrate together in spirit the blessing our Catholic schools are in our lives and the lives of our students.

The words, "faith" and "community" aptly describe our Catholic schools. They capture the daily lived experience in our schools! These words express why we serve in Catholic schools, why we choose Catholic schools for our children and why we are so proud to be members of the Catholic school community. They capture the partnership that makes our schools so special—that of parents and educators working together to foster the faith lives of the children and young adults entrusted to our care in our Catholic schools. The sense of community and support for our students and the caring, value-based environment in our schools encourage our students to grow, to serve and to learn. Most especially, it impels them to use their gifts in service to God and others.

Our Catholic school community is blessed with amazing students, wonderful parents and families, outstanding teachers, excellent administrators, dedicated staff members and generous friends. We give special thanks for Archbishop Lori, Bishop Parker, the parish priests, and deacons who dedicate themselves to ensuring that the Catholic identity of our schools is strong. We are grateful for the members of the Department of Catholic Schools who work to support and serve all members of our Catholic school community. Together, we ensure that the sacred mission of Catholic education is achieved to its fullness in every one of our schools.

For over two centuries, our Catholic School community has produced magnificent results. In the vision and spirit of Catholic school pioneers like Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton and Venerable Mary Elizabeth Lange countless students have been educated to be people of faith. Routinely, our students and schools excel beyond expectations in our classrooms, fields of play, and performance venues. Most importantly, the success of our schools' shines in the lives of our students who reflect their academic education and share their deep faith commitment as they strive to be disciples of Jesus and use their God-given talents to make the world a better place. This week, let us pause to celebrate and thank God for all the wonderful people and blessings we have received as a Catholic school community.

Please accept my heartfelt thank you to all who sacrifice so much, including our parents, grandparents and educators, so that our students can experience the lifelong gifts of their Catholic education. We thank God for our students and for the joy they bring to our schools every day! As you experience the cold temperatures of this week, may your hearts be warmed by the enduring spirit of love that is the hallmark of our Catholic Schools. On a personal note, as a product of Catholic education, I am keenly aware of the positive impact my Catholic education has had on my life, and I will be forever grateful that I had the opportunity to be educated in Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. As Superintendent, it is my honor and pleasure to serve you and serve with you in the sacred work of educating the children in our Catholic schools. May you have a blessed week! May you have a safe week! May we always remain united in faith and community!

Happy Catholic Schools Week 2026!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sister Patricia McCarron, S.S.N.D., Ph.D." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sister Patricia McCarron, S.S.N.D., Ph.D.
Superintendent of Catholic Schools
Archdiocese of Baltimore