

“Jesus wept.”- John 11:35

To the families, teachers and staff of our Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Denver:

The Uvalde, Texas school shooting this week has once again shaken and saddened us all. Our hearts break for those family members and loved ones of the children and teachers killed in this senseless act of violence in a place where they should have been safe. Like you, we have been praying for those impacted by this tragedy – the families of the victims, school staff members, first responders and medical staff who worked to save the lives of those injured. It’s an event that has forever changed all of their lives.

Tragedies like this remind us of several important things. First, the blessing of Catholic education, especially when there is a crisis, is that as a community we look to the Lord for all our needs, for our strength, and for our peace.

Secondly, our school faculty and staff members are very aware of how this may be impacting students and teachers emotionally. Many parents have done all they can to protect their children from news reports and images. But, as much as we would like to shield our children from what happened, the information will still manage to get to them. For students who have seen the news and have expressed concerns, our schools have been working hard to support parents in reassuring their children, consoling them, allowing them the space to pray and process, and ultimately doing whatever it takes to help them cope with their fears and concerns.

Many parents and guardians with school-age children also have some reservations about sending their child(ren) to school after the events of this week, wondering about the school’s safety. Please know our Catholic schools continue to evaluate and strengthen all our protocols to keep our schools safe and all our children protected. Our schools continue to be vigilant with processes to screen visitors and secure the school campus as the safety of our community is of the utmost priority.

Others are also wondering how they should handle discussion in supporting their children in coping with the trauma and fears associated with events like this. To help you be able to have that discussion with your child(ren), we’ve included some links below to resources from St. Raphael Counseling here in Denver, along with a strong article from the Denver Catholic that may help. Please take time to review these for ways to approach difficult subjects with your children.

How to talk with your children about community violence and how we should respond to this tragedy:

[How to talk to your kids about gun violence \(denvercatholic.org\)](https://denvercatholic.org)
[Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers](#)
[Responding to Tragedy: Resources for Educators and Parents](#)
[How should a Catholic respond to mass shootings](#)

Thank you for entrusting your child’s formation and education to the dedicated faculty and staff of your Catholic school.

- The Archdiocese of Denver Office of Catholic Schools

