



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

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The Diocese of Grand Rapids' Office of Communications issues the following joint statement from Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak, bishop of Grand Rapids, and Superintendent Sarah Grey in response to the shooting at Annunciation Catholic Church and School in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Our hearts are with the Annunciation community following this senseless act of violence, which took place during the celebration of school Mass. Schools and churches should be safe and joyful places for our children—this incomprehensible act strikes at the heart of that sacred trust.

As the Church celebrates the Feast of Saint Monica today, we ask her to intercede in a special way for the mothers and fathers who are facing the unfathomable grief of the loss of a child. We lift up in prayer the injured and the entire Annunciation community as they mourn and absorb the weight of this tragedy.

The Diocesan Office of Catholic Schools will continue to work with school leaders and pastors to enact safety and emergency protocols that aim to protect the students and staff in our care. We ask our State lawmakers to continue advocating for safety and security funding for nonpublic schools as they negotiate this year's budget.

Please join us in praying for this community. May they feel the warmth of the Lord's embrace and find comfort and strength in His presence in the days ahead.

The Diocese of Grand Rapids serves more than 179,371 Catholics, 79 parishes and 31 schools in an 11-county area of West Michigan. For additional information visit our website grdiocese.org. Connect with the diocese on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/DioceseofGrandRapids) (Diocese of Grand Rapids) and [@GRDiocese](https://www.instagram.com/GRDiocese) on Instagram.

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