



PRESS RELEASE

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Students attending Catholic High Schools in the Diocese of Tucson will participate as young men and women of faith in the national protest of gun violence

Each school has come up with its own commemorations and moments of prayer and reflection

High school students at each of the Diocese of Tucson's six high schools will be participating in different prayerful protests against gun violence on Wednesday (March 14).

Bishop Edward J. Weisenburger will be among the students, participating at St. Augustine High School.

There are 2,300 high school students attending diocese high schools. Like their counterparts at public high schools, the Catholic students will hold their prayerful solidarity against gun violence as part of the national events taking place. Each of the Catholic high school events will take place at 10 a.m. In addition, the student body presidents or other students are writing letters to elected officials advocating a better response to gun violence.

“Our students here, as in other parts of our country, are dealing with the devastating gun violence at schools and communities across the nation,” said Bishop Weisenburger. “We hope to assist them as they find their place as faithful citizens of the United States, and as they find their way of coping constructively against a problem that has become widespread. I am pleased that level thinking, combined with compassion, prayer and faith are elements of our students’ events on Wednesday.”

Here is a listing of the high schools along with information on how students at each are planning to protest. Each of these events is expected to last 17 minutes, commemorating the 17 lives that were lost in the Parkland, Fla. school shooting:

St. Augustine High School, 8800 E. 22 St. Principal is Lynn Cuffari.

Students will meet in the courtyard, and seniors will lead the student body in praying the rosary.

Salpointe Catholic High School, 1545 E. Copper Street. President is Kay Sullivan.

At 10 a.m. students will walk to the campus overflow parking lot at Glenn and Cherry streets for prayer and the naming each one of the 17 victims.

Immaculate Heart High School, 625 E. Magee Road. Principal is Sister Alice Martinez, I.H.M.

Please note, IHS is the smallest of our schools with about 50 students. The students will go to their prayer garden and will create a prayer circle, where they will read aloud the names of the shooting victims; they will release a balloon and place a rose in a vase for each victim. During the school's prayer time, students will be encouraged to reach out to a friend or trusted person if they every have any feelings of loneliness or despair. They also plan to create a display commemorating the victims.

San Miguel Cristo Rey High School, 6601 S. San Fernando Road. President is David L. Mason.

Students, faculty and staff will meet in the gym at 10 a.m. for prayer and reflection. At lunch, classrooms will be set up for 'break out sessions' where students can have additional prayer time, call or write to elected officials.

Lourdes Catholic High School, 555 Patagonia Highway. Principal is Sandra Contreras.

Students will meet in the soccer field for prayer. The chapel bells will toll once for each of the 17 victims, and students will pray a Hail Mary for each victim. An officer from the Nogales Police Department will then address students briefly on non-violence and safety.

Yuma Catholic High School, 2100 W. 28th Street. Principal is Rhett Stallworth.

Students will meet in the school quad area for prayer. The name of each victim in Florida will be read aloud, and students will pray an Our Father for each person lost.

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