



**March 29, 2023**

## **Statement re Nashville Shooting March 2023**

*From Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski, Archbishop of St. Louis:*

Please join me in praying for those who lost their lives this week at Covenant School in Nashville, including 9-year old Evelyn Dieckhaus, whose grandparents are parishioners of St. Francis Borgia in Washington, Mo., and whose father and uncles are graduates of St. Francis Borgia High School.

May those who died and those who love them be comforted by Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, who grieves the loss of every sacred, unrepeatable life. Let us continue, too, to pray for guidance as we seek better ways to address the dual crises of mental health and violence.

It is almost unbearable for us as a nation to once more hear news of a mass shooting, to imagine people going about their usual morning routines, and then learning that the unthinkable has happened. In the past year, I've also asked you to join me in prayer after violent acts in Monterey Park, Colorado Springs, St. Louis, Uvalde, Buffalo, and Laguna Woods.

It is tempting to lose hope, to believe that our prayers do not matter. But Scripture shows us time and again that God listens to His people. In these dark hours, I pray that we may hold each other up and remain steadfast in faith amidst the challenges that surround us.

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*[The Archdiocese of St. Louis](http://www.archstl.org) was established in 1826. Comprised today of nearly a half million Catholics and led by the Most Reverend Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski in communion with His Holiness Pope Francis, we are called by our Lord, Jesus Christ, to be His Church and live His Gospel. Learn more about the Archdiocese of St. Louis at [www.archstl.org](http://www.archstl.org), and on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn.*