



Saint Barbara Parish

June 24, 2022

Dear School Parents, Students, and Parishioners,

It is with a heavy heart and sadness that I wish to inform you about the closing of St. Barbara Catholic School for the upcoming 2022-2023 academic year. It was my sincere hope while working in close cooperation with the Superintendent of Catholic School, Mrs. Mary Fiala that we would be able to pursue our original plan for the upcoming academic year by hiring one principal for both schools: St. Barbara and St. Mary and keeping both of them open until 2023.

Unfortunately, because of low enrollment for the next academic year at St. Barbara School reflected by 61 students in grades K-8 and only 9 students registered for the preschool, we realized that we needed to change the course of our action. In addition, with several teachers and staff members leaving St. Barbara School this year and a loss of some very generous alumni and parishioners who provided financial support for our school, it became obvious that we had no other option but to close St. Barbara School. I became extremely worried facing a possibility of accumulating a financial debt of over two hundred thousand dollars if the school was to remain open for the next academic year.

Please, know that you and your children as well as our remaining teachers will be welcomed with open arms at St. Mary School should they choose to make this transition. It is my sincere hope and prayer that having one strong and financially viable Catholic School in the city of Massillon will allow us to provide high quality education and preserve our Catholic identity for the future. You are cordially invited to attend an "open house" at St. Mary School on June 29, 2022, at 7:00 pm in the gym. You will meet our new principal Mrs. Lucia D. Huddleston, PhD, and some of the teachers.

Finally, I wish to thank each and everyone of you for your involvement and support of Catholic education. I have been touched and inspired by your sacrifices and conscientious efforts to foster and to promote Catholic education. We live in very difficult times reflected by high inflation and constantly rising prices of food, gasoline and many other things that are essential to our lives. The gift of Catholic education is the best gift anyone can give to their children, relatives, and friends. Catholic education is a key that will open many doors to those who benefit from it. Thank you for choosing Catholic education and for passing on the torch of faith, knowledge, and traditions to the future generations. You make a tremendous difference in the lives of others.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Very Rev. Dr. Canon Maciej Matthew Mankowski, Pastor

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