



NEWS RELEASE

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St. Michael Catholic School to close at the end of the academic year

St. Michael Catholic School in Greenville, Pennsylvania, will close at the end of the 2024-2025 academic school year.

The Most Rev. Lawrence T. Persico, bishop of Erie, accepted the request of Father Brandon Kleckner, pastor of St. Michael Catholic School, to close the school due to declining enrollment, staffing constraints and financial viability. The school serves the needs of St. Michael Parish, Greenville, PA, and St. Margaret Mission, Jamestown, PA. All of the parishioners are under the pastoral care of Father Kleckner.

The decision was based on the recommendation of the parish finance council as well as a group of advisors Father Kleckner convened to explore the school's future. School enrollment stands at 36 students with demographics in the area to likely decline. Father Kleckner informed the parents in a letter today, and shared the following statement:

“After an enormous amount of effort, conversation, and strategizing with many, I have come to see that there is not a practical path forward that allows us to keep Saint Michael School open beyond the current academic year.”

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For those students that want to continue their pursuit of a Catholic education, the administration of St. Michael Catholic School has offered to help facilitate transportation and tuition support for students to attend Shenango Valley Catholic School System in Hermitage, PA, or Seton Catholic School in Meadville, PA.

Father Kleckner underscored the point that this decision was not reflective of a lack of commitment or desire for a Catholic education from the school and parish community, emphasizing that the passion and faith of all involved is inspiring.

“Yes, this ministry will come to a close and there will be sorrow in the ending of that chapter,” Father Kleckner shared in his letter about the closing, “but it is important to know that St. Michael Parish is still here and will never relent in doing all we can to bring the Gospel to every soul and help every family and every child have the great gift of a Catholic Education.”

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