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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL IN ZELL TO CLOSE AFTER 2024-2025 ACADEMIC YEAR**

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

“St. Joseph School in Sainte Genevieve County has faced the growing challenge of supporting a school with increasing costs and low enrollment, currently serving just 27 students in its core Kindergarten through fifth grade program.

After reviewing recent financial projections and consulting with parish leadership about the school’s viability, Pastor Rev. Ryan Weber has determined that continuing to fund the school is not sustainable. For this reason and in the interests of protecting the financial wellbeing of the parish, I have accepted Fr. Weber’s recommendation to close St. Joseph School in Zell at the end of the 2024-2025 academic year.

The Archdiocese of St. Louis will provide placement assistance to St. Joseph’s four faculty and staff members. The Office of Catholic Education will work with St. Joseph’s 17 school families to find a neighboring Catholic school that best suits their children. There are currently 10 students receiving Today and Tomorrow Educational Foundation scholarships. Scholarships will follow the student to the Catholic school of their choice.

I am profoundly grateful to current and past teachers, administrators, and staff of St. Joseph School, the many others who have shared their gifts in our parish and diocesan schools, and to parents raising their children in our Catholic faith, including those who have made a commitment to Catholic education.

Please keep all who are affected by the closing of St. Joseph School in your prayers, as I am keeping them in mine.”