



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ST. SIMON CATHOLIC SCHOOL TO CLOSE AFTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR

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

"While providing Catholic Education in St. Louis County for 65 years, St. Simon School has faced ongoing challenges due to declining enrollment. Currently, 70 students are enrolled for the 2025-2026 school year, including one grade level in which only three students have enrolled and another with a single student. For grades 1-5, we currently have fewer than 30 students registered for the 2025-26 academic year. This ongoing trend means that continuing to provide quality education at St. Simon School would require financial support that would negatively impact the parish's finances and impede other crucial ministries.

After consultation with archdiocesan leaders to explore possible cost-reducing options, we have determined that such changes would take away key services and resources from students and teachers and still require a growing and unsustainable parish subsidy. For these reasons, it is necessary to close St. Simon School at the end of the 2024-2025 academic year.

The Archdiocese of St. Louis will provide placement assistance to St. Simon School faculty and staff, as well as enrollment assistance to families who wish to place students into other Catholic elementary schools.

The parishioners of St. Simon can indeed be proud of the long history of educating children in the faith. I am profoundly grateful to them, to all the administrators, teachers, and staff who share their gifts to help raise children in our Catholic faith, and to the parents who make a commitment to Catholic education.

Please join me in keeping all affected by these changes in our prayers."

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<u>The Archdiocese of St. Louis</u> was established in 1826 and is comprised today of more than 444,000 Catholics in 11 Missouri counties. 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 <u>www.archstl.org</u>, and on Facebook, Instagram, X, Threads and LinkedIn.