



Guardian Angels

CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Guardian Angels Catholic School to Close at End of Current School Year

This is a difficult time for our parish as we announce that our proud history of more than 100 years of Catholic school education at Guardian Angels will come to an end in June 2021.

Guardian Angels parish has struggled greatly over the past decade to support operations of the school ministry, as enrollment has continued to decline. Over the past 20 years, enrollment has fallen from 300 children to 64 children today in kindergarten through 8th grade. This decline in enrollment has been steady and many efforts to reverse it have failed, despite the lowest Catholic school tuition in this part of the metro area. It is not sustainable to operate the school with current low levels of enrollment, which have resulted in continued deficit spending. Despite the parish's two recent capital campaigns, the parish has not been able to raise sufficient funds to get the school and its building to a sustainable condition. The parish has cut all other parish ministries to a minimum to subsidize the school ministry and there is still not enough money available to make the many needed repairs to the school building or the parish's three other century-old buildings.

To help current school families continue to receive a Catholic school education, Guardian Angels parish is offering families of all current Guardian Angels Catholic School students up to \$3,000 per student in scholarship dollars to attend a neighboring K- 8 Catholic school at the same amount of tuition they are paying at Guardian Angels now. This scholarship will continue for these students through eighth grade at a neighboring Catholic school. Parish and school staff are meeting individually with families to connect them with a neighboring Catholic school that meets their needs, answer questions and offer guidance on next steps. The closure of Guardian Angels Catholic School does not mean the end of Catholic school education for local families.

Classes will continue for students at Guardian Angels Catholic School through the end of the school year in June. Teachers and other school staff are being offered resources for support as they search for new employment after school ends in June. We look forward to new ways that Guardian Angels parish can serve those in our parish community through ministries that meet the needs of individuals and families now and into the future. Following the leadership of the Archdiocese, we hope for the development of a regional Catholic school supported by multiple local Catholic parishes in our area in the future.