



The Mission of St. Valentine School is to provide a Catholic education based on:
Values rooted in Catholic Teachings
Academic Excellence
Love and Respect for all
Strong Community in Christ

Jan. 21, 2026

Dear St. Valentine School Families,

It is with heavy hearts, and after much prayerful discernment, that we write to share the news that St. Valentine Catholic School will close at the conclusion of the current academic year.

Over the past three years, enrollment at St. Valentine School has steadily declined from approximately 160 students to about 80. While our small student body resulted in some positives, like small class sizes and an individualized, differentiated approach to instruction, the decrease in enrollment also made it difficult for our school to meet prudent budgetary goals and placed an undeniable financial burden on the parish, threatening the entire community's long-term vitality.

Still, this decision was not made lightly. All possible avenues have been explored. After careful review and discernment, there is unanimous agreement among parish and school leadership on this unfortunate but necessary course of action, taken in the best interest of our wider community. In accepting the request to close St. Valentine, Archbishop Weisenburger commended our community for its thoughtful discernment in the face of a painful reality.

We know that this news will bring sadness, uncertainty, and many questions. Right now, we want you to know that we are committed to accompanying every student and every staff/faculty member through this transition, working together to ensure a smooth transition for all those interested in finding a new Catholic school home. To that end, we are arranging a Catholic schools fair on **February 3, from 6-8 p.m. at St. Valentine**, where families will have the opportunity to meet representatives from area Catholic schools and learn about their programs, tuition, and support services. These schools are ready to warmly welcome your families and continue providing the strong, faith-based education you have come to expect from St. Valentine.

St. Valentine families that choose to enroll their children in area Catholic schools will receive a **one-time financial contribution toward tuition costs for next year**. The amount is to be determined and will be shared with you as soon as possible.

We also want to reassure families regarding the **Archdiocese of Detroit tuition assistance** program. Any applications already submitted under St. Valentine School will transfer if a family qualifies, and families who have not yet applied are still encouraged to do so. We will

provide clear guidance to help you navigate this process effectively, especially as school decisions are made.

In the coming weeks, we will continue to communicate openly and clearly, addressing any questions you might have. Above all, we want you to know that you are not alone. St. Valentine Parish, the Archdiocese of Detroit's Catholic Schools Department, and our neighboring parish communities are committed to helping you discern the best path forward for your children.

The purpose of all Catholic schools is to form disciples who will share the light of Christ wherever they go. We are confident that your children will bear that light as they go forward into this new chapter. We are deeply grateful for the trust you have placed in us and for the many years this school has faithfully served its students and families.

Please keep our school and parish community in your prayers and know that you remain always in ours.

Yours in Christ,

Father Manuel Fernandes

Mrs. Rachel Damuth