



# St. Mary Catholic School

34516 Michigan Avenue Wayne MI 48184

Office: 734-721-1240

Email: [smsprincipal@stmarywayne.org](mailto:smsprincipal@stmarywayne.org)

February 16, 2018

Dear Parents:

You are receiving Bishop Walter Hurley's letter announcing the closure of St. Mary Catholic Elementary School at the end of the 2017-18 academic year. While I am deeply saddened by this decision, we must focus on the needs of our students, faculty and staff in our plans to help them transition well.

Despite aggressive cost-cutting measures, receiving significant grants, and increasing the parish subsidy, we could not project the enrollment growth necessary to reduce the reliance on additional financial support. St. Mary School has a rich 94-year history of providing an outstanding Catholic education. Its closure is painful for the entire community, but especially to our current students and their families.

I know many of us were filled with hope during recent years, as we worked to create a positive Catholic culture and a challenging academic program. I am grateful for the overwhelming support and dedication among teachers, parents, students and parishioners who have worked hard to promote the school. As we are disappointed with this decision, and have a deep sense of loss, we must rely on the Holy Spirit's guidance and strength to move us forward.

We are developing a plan to help students and parents identify and find a new school for the 2018-19 school year. In addition, we are also working with other Catholic schools to offer employment opportunities for our teachers. We are confident that through prayer, the loving support of our teachers, and the support of St. Mary Parish, our students will find a home at another Catholic school.

Wishing you God's grace and mercy always,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathy J. Sparks".

Kathy J. Sparks, Principal