

# Archdiocese of Detroit

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## Archdiocese of Detroit to Close 15 Schools in Wayne and Macomb Counties

At a news briefing on Wednesday, March 16, Cardinal Maida, archbishop of Detroit, announced that 15 Catholic schools (7 high schools and 8 elementary schools) will close at the end of the current school year. The schools slated for closure are:

	Enrollment
<b>Bishop Borgess High School &amp; Academy, Redford</b>	103 H.S.   Academy 66
<b>East Catholic High School, Detroit</b>	124
<b>Holy Redeemer High School, Detroit</b>	189
<b>Notre Dame High School, Harper Woods</b>	295
<b>Our Lady Queen of Angels Elementary, Detroit</b>	87
<b>St. Alphonsus Elementary, Dearborn</b>	106
<b>St. Benedict Elementary, Highland Park</b>	135
<b>St. Casimir Elementary, Detroit</b>	127
<b>St. Clement High School, Center Line</b>	127
<b>St. Florian Elementary, Hamtramck</b>	113
<b>St. Luke &amp; St. Brigid Elementary, Detroit</b>	143
<b>St. Martin de Porres High School, Detroit</b>	224
<b>St. Mel Elementary, Dearborn Heights</b>	119
<b>Transfiguration Elementary, Detroit</b>	100
<b>Trinity Catholic High School, Harper Woods</b>	163

In addition to the above listing, two other schools will close and another will close one of its campuses at the end of the 2004-2005 school year:

St. Mary Magdalen Elementary, Melvindale, (enrollment 121) requested school closure, which was granted in February.

The Adrian Dominican Sisters and the Board of Directors have announced that Dominican High School and Academy (enrollment 97 high school | 75 academy) will close.

The McDougall Campus of East Catholic Elementary Elementary, Detroit, (enrollment 97) will close. The school will consolidate and operate out of its Seven Mile Campus.

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## Archdiocese of Detroit to Close 15 Schools---FIRST ADD

“Sometimes a bishop has to make very difficult decisions and this is one of those times,” said Cardinal Maida at the news briefing. “During my 15 years here in the archdiocese, we have struggled to maintain Catholic schools throughout the archdiocese, especially in the urban areas.

“But we cannot deny the reality of shifting populations, demographic changes, financial constraints and the need to use our resources in the best possible way to ensure the continued viability, presence, and vitality of Catholic education throughout the archdiocese,” the cardinal continued.

“Closing 15 schools is a very tough judgment call. This decision was not made hastily or unilaterally. We have had a long process of discussion over the last two and a half years, particularly the last few months...I am somewhat relieved that only five percent of our Catholic school population will be affected by the these closings. And I am hope-filled for the 122 schools we will still operate...12 of them in the City of Detroit,” said Cardinal Maida.

Joining the cardinal at the news briefing were: Christopher Blake, a member of the Archdiocesan Advisory Board of Catholic Education and chair of the Schools Planning Committee; Sr. Mary Gehringer, OSM, superintendent of Catholic Schools, Archdiocese of Detroit; Ned McGrath, director of communications, Archdiocese of Detroit; Sr. Frances Nadolny, OP, director of education, Archdiocese of Detroit; and Fr. Ted Parker, OSC, pastor of St. Cecilia Parish, Detroit, Administrator of St. Luke Parish, Detroit, and Vicar of the Central Region Vicariate 3.

At the news briefing, it was noted the school closings will affect 181 of the 2,662 teachers currently employed by the archdiocese and 2,241 of the 41,752 students currently enrolled in Catholic schools throughout the six county area of the archdiocese.

It was also noted the schools to be closed had been running operating deficits of over \$3 million a year for the last five years and that, in the city of Detroit, enrollment in Catholic schools had declined by 47 percent in the last five years.

“While this is a sad day, ultimately, we believe in resurrection and we trust that the mission of Catholic education will continue in a new and stronger way. That gives me great hope,” said Cardinal Maida at the conclusion of his prepared remarks. “By focusing our resources with a commitment to strengthening our current schools, we will have a strong viable presence for years to come...in our urban areas...in the suburbs...in the rural sections of our Detroit archdiocese.”

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**\*\*\*Note: Detailed information pertaining to the school closings, including Cardinal Maida’s opening remarks at the Media Briefing, financial and enrollment fact sheets, backgrounders on the schools to be closed, and a listing of the schools that will remain open, can be found at the Archdiocese of Detroit web site at [www.aodonline.org](http://www.aodonline.org).**