

CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC CHURCH

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January 7, 2025

To Our Christ the King Parishioners and School Families,

I write today with a heavy heart. It is my solemn duty to share that, after nearly 70 years of service to the Norfolk community, Christ the King School will cease operations at the end of the current 2024-25 school year.

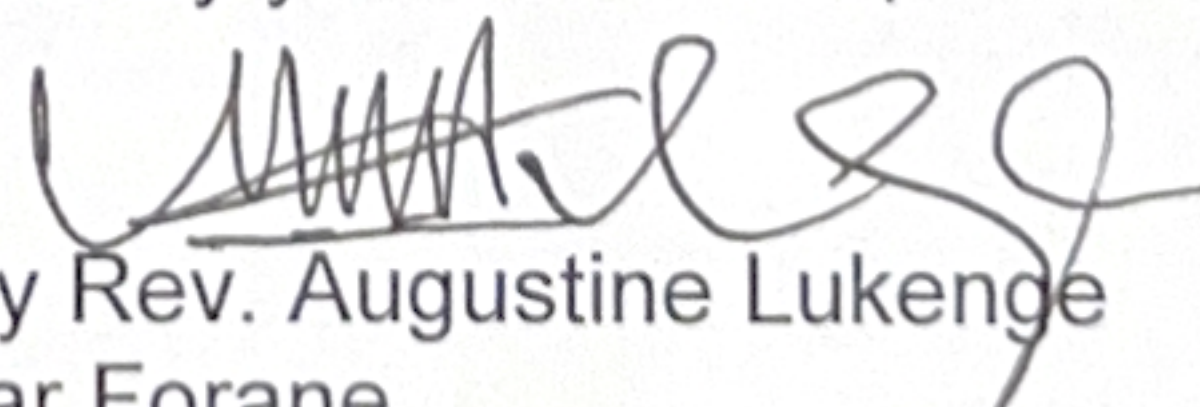
The decision to close a school so dearly held is not an easy one – it is, however, a decision we are called to make. Catholic schools across the country face powerful headwinds, and Christ the King School here in Norfolk is no exception. After a thoughtful analysis of the school's financial picture and its mounting financial debt, and in consultation with Bishop Knestout and the Office of Catholic Schools, I reached the conclusion that the school's debt burden has simply become too great while our prospects for future financial viability have become too narrow.

In recent weeks, the groundswell of love and support for Christ the King School's ministry has been palpable. Many in the community, including families, staff, donors and parish members, have come forward with their prayers, words of support, and their generous contributions. I share my gratitude for your generosity of spirit; in the end, though, it was simply not enough to overcome our serious financial realities.

Shortly, school officials will share a series of communications to address important topics, answer frequently asked questions and provide options for continuing a Catholic education. In the meantime, I will do all I can to support school administrators in closing out the school year in a joyful, enriching, Christ-centered manner, and to providing for our faculty and staff – the lifeblood of our school – who have so diligently embodied the school's mission even in challenging times.

On behalf of Christ the King Parish, I thank each of you for your support. May God's blessing be with our families and school community during this time of transition.

Sincerely yours In Christ,



Very Rev. Augustine Lukenge
Vicar Forane
Pastor, Christ the King Parish