

**OUR LADY OF PEACE PARISH**  
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Dear Parishioners,

Wish you all a Holy season of Lent.

Catholic Education had been a vital piece of the community in Ironwood for over one hundred years. There are many people in Ironwood that still remember or attended St. Ambrose and/or Ironwood Catholic High School. Many parishioners have shared with me their wonderful experience in the school and with the sisters in those days. In the last several years All Saints Catholic Academy has been home to the local Catholic Grade School.

As we are all aware the decline in population in the area has affected almost all areas of life around here. The school too has been facing a difficult situation due to lack of students for several years. So the diocese decided to discontinue the grade school in June 2019 on the recommendation of the parish. What we have now is Kindergarten which is under school license and Little Lambs Day Care and Preschool programs under daycare license.

After visiting the school on November 6, 2019 Bishop John sent a letter asking me to call all the lay leaders in the parish and decide whether we can continue with the school or not. As per the letter I called the meeting of all council members of both the parish and the school on December 17, 2019. After long discussions, though hard, we took the decision to recommend the diocese to close the Kindergarten and continue with the Little Lamb Daycare and Preschool program, but the daycare and preschool should support itself.

Considering the recommendation of the parish the Diocese took the decision to close All Saints Catholic Academy after this current 2019/2020 school year (June 4, 2020). The Catholic Education will continue with the Little Lambs Daycare and Preschool Programs in the future (Please read the "Decree of the Dissolution of All Saints Catholic Academy" on the other side).

I wish to thank everyone who worked hard for the school in the past – Pastors, Sisters, principals, staff and lots of volunteers. I also thank Emily Lightfoot, the current lead teacher, staff and so many other people who helped with different activities in the school. I can't but thank the Alumni association for the wonderful support they have been extending to the school all these years.

Now, the parish is extending the school building and all other facilities related to it for the good of the people around us without expecting any profit, but the Daycare and Preschool should be able to support itself. I request your continued support especially by sending kids to our institution.

May this Lenten season bring God's grace and blessings to you and your family.

03/13/2020

Fr. Binu Joseph.  
Pastor