



# SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS OFFICE

## ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

1011 FIRST AVENUE 18<sup>th</sup> FLOOR NEW YORK, NEW YORK, 10022-4112 PHONE: (646)-794-2802

February 13, 2024

Dear Parent or Guardian:

It is with a heavy heart that I share difficult news about your school.

As part of our ongoing process of the **School Viability Study** of Parish and Regional Elementary Schools in the Archdiocese of New York, it has been determined that **Our Lady of Refuge School** along with other beloved Catholic schools in the Archdiocese, will close at the end of the **2024-25 academic year**. This decision was made after extensive reflection, study, and prayer, as we face significant challenges that make it impossible to continue our mission at this location.

I know this news is heartbreaking. **Our Lady of Refuge School** has been a cherished place of faith, learning, and love for generations, with a legacy of deep devotion to the education and formation of young hearts and minds. Please know that this decision was not made lightly—it was reached with great care for the future of Catholic education in New York.

Even in this difficult time, we must hold on to the belief that our mission continues. Catholic education remains strong and steadfast because we know the profound impact our schools have. Now more than ever, the world needs faith-filled leaders who emerge from our classrooms.

I want to assure you that **every child will have a place in another Catholic school**. Our Enrollment Directors will personally work with each family to find the best school for your child next year. You will receive guidance and support throughout this transition, and additional information, including your Enrollment Director's contact details, is available at [www.catholicschoolsny.org/school-announcements](http://www.catholicschoolsny.org/school-announcements)

Please know that you, your children, and the dedicated principals, teachers, and staff of all our Catholic schools remain in my heartfelt prayers.

May God continue to bless and guide you in the days ahead.

Sincerely, in Christ,

Sister Mary Grace Walsh, ASCJ, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools



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13 de febrero de 2024

Estimados padres o tutores:

Con gran pesar, comparto las difíciles noticias sobre su escuela.

Como parte de nuestro proceso en curso del **Estudio de Viabilidad Escolar** de las Escuelas Primarias Parroquiales y Regionales de la Arquidiócesis de Nueva York, se ha determinado que **Our Lady of Refuge School**, junto con otras queridas escuelas católicas de la Arquidiócesis, cerrará al finalizar el **año académico 2024-25**. Esta decisión se adoptó tras una exhaustiva reflexión, estudio y oración, ya que nos enfrentamos a importantes dificultades que hacen imposible continuar nuestra misión en este lugar.

Sé que esta noticia es desgarradora. **Our Lady of Refuge School** ha sido un lugar de fe, aprendizaje y amor apreciado durante generaciones, con un legado de devoción profunda a la educación y formación de jóvenes corazones y mentes. Por favor, sepan que esta decisión no fue tomada a la ligera; se llegó a ella con gran cuidado por el futuro de la educación católica en Nueva York.

Incluso en estos tiempos difíciles, debemos aferrarnos a la creencia de que nuestra misión continúa. La educación católica se mantiene fuerte y firme porque conocemos el profundo impacto que tienen nuestras escuelas. Ahora más que nunca, el mundo necesita líderes llenos de fe que surjan de nuestras aulas.

Quiero asegurarles que **todos los niños tendrán una vacante en otra escuela católica**. Nuestros directores de matriculación trabajarán personalmente con cada familia para encontrar la mejor escuela para su hijo/a el año que viene. Recibirán asesoramiento y apoyo a lo largo de esta transición. Encontrarán información adicional, incluidos los datos de contacto de su director de matriculación, en [www.catholicschoolsny.org/school-announcements](http://www.catholicschoolsny.org/school-announcements).

Sepan que ustedes, sus hijos y los dedicados directores, maestros y personal de todas nuestras escuelas católicas permanecen en mis más sinceras oraciones.

Ruego que Dios les siga bendiciendo y guiando en los días venideros.

Sinceramente en Cristo,

Hermana Mary Grace Walsh, ASCJ, Ph.D.  
Superintendente de Escuelas

## Information and Frequently Asked Questions for Families of Our Lady of Refuge School

*Information is available at [www.catholicschoolsny.org/school-announcements](http://www.catholicschoolsny.org/school-announcements)*

Our Lady of Refuge School in the Bronx will not reopen for the 2025-26 school year.

### What to Do Now

#### 1. Contact our Director of Enrollment for Our Lady of Refuge School.

Ms. Leslie Guerrero and her colleagues will work to help you and your child(ren) transition to another Catholic school for the 2025-2026 school year.

You can reach Ms. Guerrero or arrange a convenient time for a phone call or in-person appointment by emailing her at: [Leslie.Guerrero@archny.org](mailto:Leslie.Guerrero@archny.org), or by calling our bilingual parent helpline at (646) 794-2885 between 9:00 and 5:00 pm Monday-Friday.

#### 2. Learn more about the alternative schools you are considering:

- [Click here](#) to find alternative Catholic schools in the Bronx.
- Contact your Director of Enrollment, who will help you review alternative schools and help you select the one that best fits your needs.
- Ms. Guerrero will also help arrange a call or virtual tour with the Principal of any school(s) you may be considering, to ensure that you have all the necessary information to make an informed choice for your family.
- Check this page often for new or updated information.

#### 3. Apply to the school where you want to send your children.

- Once you have selected a school, simply visit <https://admissions.catholicschoolsny.org> to submit your application. You will be required to set up a new FACTS login for the school to which you wish to apply.
- **We are committed to ensuring that your child can continue receiving a quality Catholic education.** Your Director of Enrollment will assist you in this transition and help identify an appropriate school for your child to enroll in for the 2025-2026 school year. We will work with you to ensure your child has a seat at another Catholic school.

- Families are required to submit a new application and register at the new school for the 2025-2026 school year to hold a seat for their child(ren) at the new school. Families who enroll at a participating school before April 15, 2025 will save \$100/student in registration fees. In addition, they will receive a credit to reimburse them for the entire registration fee in their November 2025 tuition invoice at their participating school.

**The Archdiocese of New York is committed to making every effort to minimize the financial impact to your family as a result of this transfer.**

- All Our Lady of Refuge School families – including those not previously receiving assistance – will have a chance to apply for financial assistance as part of their application to a new participating school.
- If your child(ren) is receiving financial assistance for the 2024-2025 school year, you are assured of receiving an award for 2025-2026 at the new participating Regional school once you complete your application.

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### **1. Why will my school not be reopening?**

We understand that this is upsetting news, and that you may feel there could have been something more you or your school community might have done. As part of the recently conducted School Viability Study (SVS), careful deliberation, research, and analysis went into the final determination of which schools would not reopen. Unfortunately, the demographics and lower enrollment have significantly impacted the ability for these schools to continue operation.

### **2. Will I have to re-apply to the new school?**

Families whose schools are not reopening are required to submit a new application and register at a different Catholic school for the 2025-2026 school year to hold a seat for their child(ren) at the new school. Once you have selected a school, simply visit <https://admissions.catholicschoolsny.org> and submit your application.

### **3. If my school is closing, will I have to register at the new school?**

Yes. In order to complete enrollment at your new school, you will have to register your child(ren) and pay the applicable registration fee. If you register at a participating school before April 15, 2025, you will save \$100/student in registration fees. In addition, you will receive a credit to reimburse you for the entire registration fee in your November, 2025 tuition invoice at participating schools.

**4. Will my tuition costs go up if the new school's tuition is higher than at my current school?**

The Archdiocese of New York is committed to making every effort to minimize the financial impact to your family as a result of this transfer.

All families – including those not previously receiving assistance – will have a chance to apply for financial assistance as part of their application to a new participating school.

**5. Who do I turn to for help?**

Your Regional Director of Enrollment will help you and your child(ren) transition to another Catholic school for the 2025-2026 school year. You can reach your Regional Director of Enrollment at the email address indicated above for your school, or by calling our bilingual parent helpline at (646) 794-2885 between 9:00 and 5:00 pm Monday-Friday.

**6. How do I learn more about other nearby schools that would meet my child's needs?**

You can contact your Regional Director of Enrollment at the email address indicated above for your school, or call our bilingual parent helpline at (646) 794-2885 between 9:00 and 5:00 pm Monday-Friday, to arrange a convenient time for a phone call, or to book a tour of any alternate schools you may be considering.

In addition, [click here](#) to view a full list of schools for any zip code you enter on our School Finder page.

We understand that these are extremely difficult times for many families. We are committed to working with parents as closely as possible to find the best possible placement for your child(ren) at a conveniently located Catholic school.



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS *in the*  
ARCHDIOCESE *of* NEW YORK

Faith-Based. Future-Focused.

## Alternative Enrollment Locations for Families of Our Lady of Refuge (The Bronx)

The Superintendent of Schools Office in the Archdiocese of New York assures families that **every child will have a place in another Catholic school**. Our Enrollment Directors will personally work with each family to find the best school for your child next year. You will receive guidance and support throughout this transition, and additional information, including your Enrollment Director's contact details, is available at [www.catholicschoolsny.org/school-announcements](http://www.catholicschoolsny.org/school-announcements)

### Regional Schools

School Name	Address	Governance	Walking Distance	Driving Distance
St. Philip Neri	3031 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10468	Regional	15 Minutes (0.6 mi)	7 Minutes (0.9 mi)
Our Lady of Mount Carmel	2465 Bathgate Avenue, Bronx, NY 10458	Regional	19 Minutes (0.9 mi)	9 Minutes (1.0 mi)
Christ the King	1345 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10452	Regional	57 Minutes (2.5 mi)	14 Minutes (2.6 mi)
St. Clare of Assisi -St. Francis Xavier	1911 Hone Avenue, Bronx, NY 10461	Regional	61 Minutes (2.7 mi)	17 Minutes (3.1 mi)

### Parish/Private School

School Name	Address	Governance	Walking Distance	Driving Distance
Good Shepherd	620 Isham Street, New York, NY 10034	Parish	48 Minutes (2.1 mi)	18 Minutes (2.2 mi)