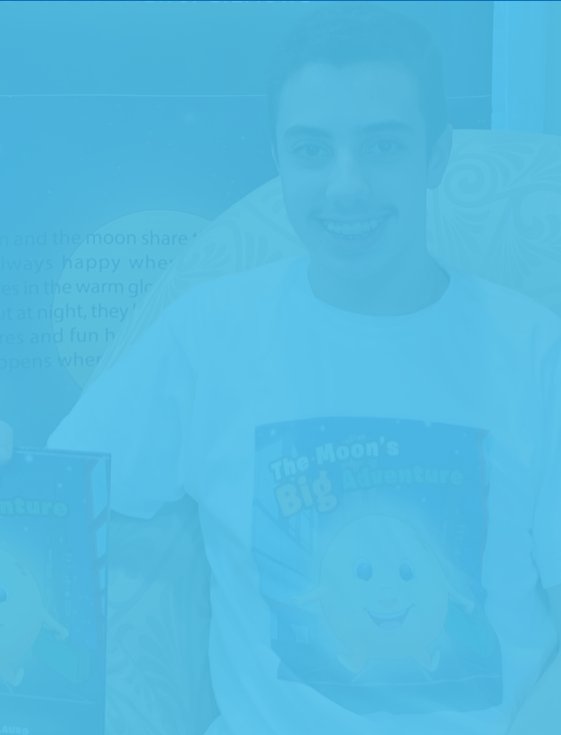




CATHOLIC SCHOOLS *in the* ARCHDIOCESE *of* NEW YORK

Faith-Based. Future-Focused.

PASTOR NEWSLETTER • SPRING 2021



Dear Pastors,

Has any previous spring felt more like spring? Phrases such as “new life” and “a fresh start” have never been more tangible. A winter of hope has steadily blooming into a season of promise with society opening more and more with each passing day. As the school year crescendos with graduations, it does so with our schools residing front and center in the national discussion about how to best run a school system.

This Spring Pastor Newsletter contains many images and stories from our schools over the past 5 months, including the solemn blessing of a statue of a great man from Staten Island; a very talented 8th grader from Rye who is now a published author; a behind the scenes look at the production of a national news segment at Good Shepherd School in Manhattan; and a refreshed look for our celebrated John Cardinal O'Connor School in Irvington.

Please enjoy all these items along with a personal piece contributed by a beloved and well-respected pastor, your brother priest, Fr. Michael P. McLoughlin of St. Columba in Hopewell Junction. He, like all of you works tirelessly and cares deeply for our great Catholic schools. As always, I thank you so very much for your invaluable support and partnership in our shared sacred mission of Catholic education.

Wishes for a safe and happy spring,



Mr. Michael J. Deegan
Superintendent of Schools
Archdiocese of New York



On January 21, 2021, Cardinal Timothy Dolan visited the newly merged Father Vincent Capodanno Catholic Academy to cut the ribbon and bless both the school and Father Capodanno statue.

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE: FATHER MICHAEL MCLOUGHLIN, PASTOR OF ST. COLUMBA, HOPEWELL JUNCTION

"It is impossible to underestimate to influence of Catholic Schools in my life."

My journey in Catholic Education began when I was six years old. My parents enrolled me at St. John and St. Mary School in Chappaqua. From there I attended Kennedy Catholic HS in Somers, Cathedral College in Queens, and St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers. I was ordained a Deacon in 1980 and a priest in 1981. Every parish I have been assigned to for forty-one years had a school. So, I have been directly connected to Catholic Schools for sixty years! And, as schools have moved toward a regional model, I served on the Regional Board for Orange, Ulster and Sullivan and I am now Co-Chair for Dutchess.

It is impossible to underestimate to influence of Catholic Schools in my life. Growing up I was fortunate to have many superb teachers. Let me mention two. Sister Eileen Treanor PBVM was my first-grade teacher. Her joy in the Lord and her love of teaching just radiated! (And, Sister is STILL serving as she has for many years at St. Paul's in Yonkers). Sister Mary Rose Enright PBVM (RIP) was my fourth-grade teacher who had a deep love for the Mass. She drilled me in my Latin and got me ready to serve at the Altar. Being close to the Altar had a profound effect on me. Both Sisters had a huge effect on my vocation.

In 2014, I was delighted to be assigned as Pastor to St. Columba in Hopewell Junction, which is the host parish for St. Denis – St. Columba School. We are building upon the good work of two extraordinary Pastors – Bishop

Dominick Lagonegro and Bishop Gerardo Colacicco. Sister Kathleen Marie Gerritse, CR, our Principal, together with our Staff and Faculty have risen to the challenge of COVID, as have all the Catholic Schools in our Archdiocese. We have been so successful that all classes are full, and we are planning two kindergarten classes for 2021-22.

As Pastor, I work directly with Sister Kathleen and our Parish Manager, Gary Bartilucci, to ensure that our building is well maintained. Pre-COVID, Father Michael Connolly and I would begin each day by praying with the students and offering them a blessing. We would both teach four classes each week. We would also offer a monthly Mass for the entire school. During COVID we instead greet the students outside as they arrive. We offer Holy Mass with small groups weekly, and it is followed by Confessions. Father Connolly led a superb hybrid Stations of the Cross and we are planning now for May Crowning. It is especially important to all of us that we never lose our Catholic Identity.

Catholic Schools continue to serve a vital role. Prayer, faith, and spirituality are part of every aspect of school

life. Our students are taught that we are all children of God and that ALL lives matter! They must also learn how to defend our faith and see that science and religion are not opposed to one another. My hope and prayer is that not only will we grow fine Catholic young women and men, but also that we will do much better in teaching them about vocations to the Priesthood, Religious Life, and the Sacrament of Marriage.



Fr. Michael McLoughlin preparing for Mass at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome

STUDENT AUTHOR: MOON'S BIG ADVENTURE

Christopher J. Cilauro is 14 years old, currently in 8th grade at Resurrection School in Rye and planning to attend John F. Kennedy Catholic Preparatory School next year.

In a 6th-grade timeline project, Christopher decided that he wanted to be a published author by 2023. Without any connections or prior knowledge of book publishing, his family was at a loss of helping him achieve his goal of becoming an author.

However, Christopher's tenacity and perseverance drove him to achieve his goal. He heard an ad on the radio about how to go about publishing a book and sent away for an author kit. He contacted the publishing company who asked to see a manuscript. After reviewing Christopher's book, they decided to publish it.

From there, the book publishing process began, extending to over a year. Christopher was involved in every step of the process from character development, storyboarding, and working with the illustrators to decide color palette, page, and cover design, and beyond. There was plenty of back and forth, but Christopher never got tired or said it was too much. In his words, "it was a huge undertaking worth every minute."

Christopher's dream is to distribute his book and promote literacy to less fortunate kids who cannot afford books or know how to read. He wants to keep the promise he made to his grandmother about sharing the book with other children. Most importantly, he wants to promote following your dream and not giving up no matter how crazy your dream may be.

You can find his book on Amazon and Barnes & Noble. It is called *The Moon's Big Adventure* by Christopher J. Cilauro.

It is available on many platforms:

[Amazon](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), [Kindle](#), [Nook](#), Apple iTunes, [Google Play](#)



PROGRESS AT JOHN CARDINAL O'CONNOR SCHOOL

The John Cardinal O'Connor School is dedicated to providing the benefits of a Catholic education to children with learning differences. The school empowers children to thrive academically, spiritually, socially, and emotionally in our supportive learning community.



Children of all faiths are welcome. Our instructors are all New York State certified special education teachers who are highly skilled and trained in special education instructional programs and multi-sensory instructional approaches such as Orton-Gillingham Methodology, Preventing Academic Failure (PAF), and the Judith Hochman Writing Program, "Teaching Basic Writing Skills." We utilize multisensory teaching strategies to provide every student with the tools that he or she needs to be successful.



Students are exposed to a full academic curriculum modified to meet their unique learning needs. In addition, social skills are directly taught through Catholic doctrine and a character development curriculum.

The motto of our school is #choosekind, and it is modeled in all aspects of the approach to students' academic, social, and spiritual lives. The goal of The John Cardinal O'Connor School is to teach children the strategies they will need to become confident, productive learners.

Our commitment to well-rounded schooling for students with learning differences has made our private, Catholic school in Irvington one of the foremost in Westchester County. The John Cardinal O'Connor School is dedicated to providing an affordable learning experience backed by a skilled teaching staff. To that end, new this year, we are delighted to be able to offer financial assistance to qualifying families to help defray the cost of tuition.



We look forward to the opportunity to help children acquire important life skills during their critical, formative years. Please feel free to visit our newly updated website at johncardinaloconnorschool.org to contact us with any questions or admissions inquiries.

BRIAN KILMEADE OF FOX NEWS VISITS GOOD SHEPHERD

On Friday, March 12, Brian Kilmeade of Fx News Channel visited with Cardinal Dolan, Superintendent Michael J. Deegan and the entire Good Shepherd School community to show America why and how our schools have been open 5 days a week for in-person learning since September. Principal Geraldine Lavery, her staff, students and families made all the preparations to make the segment a successful celebration of all our great Catholic schools!

<https://video.foxnews.com/v/6240545261001#sp=show-clips>



Ready4K

Text messages to boost your child's learning



What is Ready4K?

Ready4K is a **research-based text messaging** program for families with kids ages 0 to 9. Each week, you'll receive 3 texts with fun facts and tips on ways to help your child learn and grow.

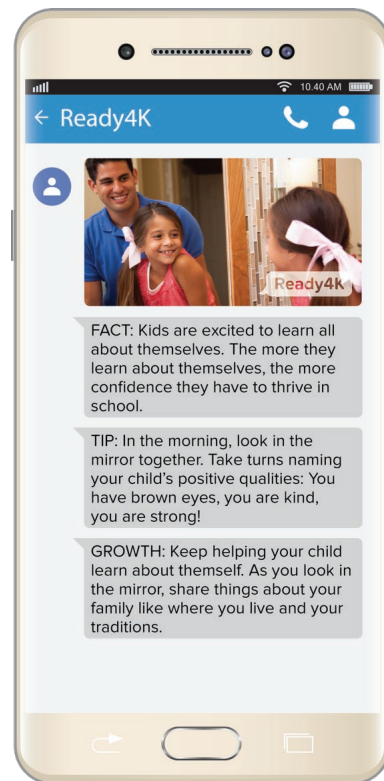
Ready4K tips **build on your daily routines**, like getting dressed, bath time, or preparing a meal. And you'll always get messages that match your child's age.

How much does it cost?

While there is **absolutely no cost** for enrolling in Ready4K, data & message rates may apply.

What if I want to stop receiving texts?

You can choose to stop receiving Ready4K texts at any time by **texting STOP to 70138**. If you have additional questions or need help with Ready4K, you can text HELP to 70138 or email us at support@parentpowered.com.



By signing up for Ready4K (the "Program") you hereby agree to (i) enroll in the Program, (ii) the ParentPowered PBC Terms of Use available at parentpowered.com/terms.html and Privacy Policy available at parentpowered.com/privacy.html, and (iii) receive approximately three Ready4K text messages per week from 70138, as well as up to approximately three Ready4K community support text messages per week from 28922. By signing up, you confirm that you want ParentPowered to send you information we think may be of interest to you, which involves ParentPowered using automated dialing technology to text you at the cell phone number you provided. While there is absolutely no cost for enrolling, data & message rates may apply. You can cancel your receipt of all Ready4K text messages any time by texting STOP to 70138, or cancel your receipt of Ready4K community support text messages only by texting STOP to 28922. For help with Ready4K text HELP to 70138 or email us at support@parentpowered.com.

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