

Dear Parishioners,

This past week we have been celebrating Catholic Schools week. It is a time when we can acknowledge and celebrate our Catholic schools and in particular our own school of Holy Rosary. We are blessed as a parish to have this school on our property as a ministry of our Parish. A school adds an added dimension of vitality and opportunity to share our Catholic faith with young people and families. The challenge is always to find ways to engage our school families more in the life of the parish which is something the school and the parish are working on. A committee also continues to work on the Catholic identity of our school and many of these initiatives have started this school year - one of them being school Masses on Fridays.

In a time when Catholic education across the country is experiencing a decline and Catholic schools are closing due to the rising cost of education and lowering enrollment, we are pleased that our own school has experienced growth over the past five years and we are at near capacity. We can attribute this to the excellent leadership we have with our Principal Sue Venable, coupled with a strong, dedicated and capable teaching and support staff. As you may realize, it becomes more difficult to fund a private school and to remain competitive with our teacher salaries. We continue to make every effort to ensure our salaries are competitive. Each year the parish offers a subsidy to help financially support the school.

The effort and resources our parish puts into our school is worth it because it is the education of children in a Catholic context and an opportunity to catechize children in the Faith who may not otherwise be exposed. Our mission as Catholics is to evangelize, that is proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and teachings of the Church. Our school is a perfect opportunity to evangelize the children and families that attend our school. We will continue to strive to offer an excellent academic program with a strong Catholic identity.