

Dear Parishioners,

We are just past the half-way point of the school year. As the challenging times continue, our teachers and staff persevere with their hard work, dedication, and commitment to this beautiful parish school. Their enthusiasm, professionalism, and positive attitude are all the necessary qualities of what it means to have a genuine investment in students and truly reflect Jesus in their ministry.

As you read this, we will have just completed the annual celebration of Catholic Schools Week. It is a great tradition that began in 1974. The week celebrates the considerable achievements of the children, parents, teachers, staff, and administrators affiliated with the 6,500 Catholic schools (K-12) currently operating throughout the United States serving roughly 1.9 million students. Without a doubt, religion is an essential part of every Catholic school. The powerful influence of living each school day in an atmosphere of gospel values and prayer is invaluable. Life lived in a school community of believers shapes important behaviors and attitudes. Examining current events, social studies, science, and language arts through the prism of faith adds a critical and impactful dimension to learning.

If you missed our Open House on Sunday, January 30, please stop by for a personal tour to witness firsthand the outstanding programs and resources we provide. We love to showcase all the wonderful activities happening at St. Mary and how we prepare our students for making a positive difference in our world. We indeed offer one of the very finest Catholic education experiences in the area. Our recognition once again last year as a PLTW (Project Lead the Way) distinguished school and our exemplary award for mission and Catholic identity are testaments to our exceptional programs and high standards. If you know of any family interested in registering for our school, please have them call the school office (414.425.3100) or visit our website (stmaryhc.org/school).

I am extremely grateful and honored to lead this parish school that for over 60 years has been providing its students with an outstanding learning environment for academic excellence, spiritual growth, and many opportunities for ministry and service to the church, local community, and broader society. We continuously ensure that every student **Belongs, Believes, and Achieves!** This can't be done without your continued generous support for the mission of Catholic education.

Please know we are grateful for all that the parish community does for our school. May God abundantly bless you, your family, and your friends.

Pace e Bene,
Dr. Mark Joerres
Principal