

I'd like to start this off by thanking Ms. Marsh and the congregation for allowing me to speak on behalf of Saint Mary School.

I attended Saint Mary School from kindergarten through eighth grade and during that time I was able to not only develop but strengthen in my faith, I was granted a unique opportunity to learn and excel academically, while at the same time grow as a person alongside close friends who were developing in their faith and studies as well.

St. Mary's provided me with a deep understanding of my faith that has carried on outside the walls of the classroom and into everyday life. I was so fortunate to attend a school where we were able to participate in daily mass, a school that offered a religion class, and a school where I could grow in my faith with others. Being a part of St. Mary's allowed me to participate in things like Catholic Schools Week which gave me a chance to see the unity of Christ on a mass scale.

Not only was I able to grow in my spirituality, but I was able to embrace a unique academic opportunity. The environment provided at St. Mary's prepared me greatly for high school. Being in a small classroom setting I was not only participating, but excelling in class. This environment allowed all of us to receive a sort of one-on-one learning that you could not receive anywhere else. This was extremely beneficial going into high school and even throughout my high school career.

Attending St. Mary's strengthened and developed my faith and academics. St. Mary's is more than just a school. It is a family. It was there where I grew as a person alongside my classmates. I was surrounded by friends who helped me grow and develop in faith and studies with them and I was surrounded by great teachers who genuinely cared. I can honestly say that going to St. Mary's school changed my life.