



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time: January 29, 2023

Dear Parishioners,

Catholic Schools Week begins this Sunday, January 29th through Saturday, February 4th. The theme for National Catholic Schools Week 2023 is "**Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service.**" As communities of faith, Catholic Schools instill in students their destiny to become saints.

I hope you take the time to visit our school during the open house and listen to the many new academic initiatives and ministries that take place each day. Mr. Erick Passarelli and his staff of teachers and parent leadership are most proud of what they have accomplished through your support.

Academic excellence is the hallmark of Catholic education intentionally directed to the growth of the whole person — mind, body and spirit. Finally, service is fundamental to Catholic education and the core of Catholic discipleship. Service is intended to help form people who are not only witnesses to Catholic social teaching, but also active participants through social learning.

Catholic Education is not private education, but rather, its role in the faith community is to promote and support the formation of practices and choices that will compose and shape the children's entire lives. The Catholic Schools provide the young children with substantive normative bearings, standards and imperatives to guide their life choices and practices. A few of these virtues and values are as follows: working always for the common good, seeking reconciliation instead of vengeance, treating one's body as the temple of the Holy Spirit, honoring one's parents and elders, avoiding self-indulgent gluttony and sexual promiscuity, respecting the dignity of others because they are made in the image of God, acting honestly and fairly even when at cost to one's self, and giving to the poor.

All of the above-named values and virtues are rooted in the belief that Christ loves us and gives us the grace to be his disciples. Prayer, meditation, confession, forgiveness, trusting in divine Providence and the Sacramental life of the Church, especially the Sunday Eucharist, enables us to stay close to Christ and one another. With the Lord and the community of faith, we have the moral, spiritual and emotional strength to deal with the stresses and problems of life. All this tends to work towards positive and constructive outcomes in young people's lives.

Peace, and thank you for your support of St. Patricia Catholic School!

Sincerely, *Fr. Mike Meany*

