



**Jan. 26-Feb. 1**

# National Catholic Schools Week



**United in Faith and Community**



**Celebrating  
St. Andrew  
School**



# Preschool recipes for the perfect Catholic School

Tiffany Huhmann's preschool students at St. Andrew School observe Catholic Schools Week with recipes for making the perfect school.

### From the Kitchen of Anden Higgins

- 2 C. water
- 1 C. drawing
- 1/2 C. art
- 1/2 C. toys
- 1/4 C. friends
- 1/2 tsp. Jesus

Mix ingredients together with love for the perfect Catholic school.

### From the kitchen of Bennett Oswald

- 2 C. playing
- 1 C. teachers
- 1/2 C. Jesus
- 2/3 C. toys
- 1/4 C. learning
- 1/2 tsp. love

Mix ingredients together with friends for the perfect Catholic school.

### From the kitchen of Beau Knipp

- 2 C. playing
- 1 C. recess
- 1/2 C. toys
- 2/3 C. snack
- 1/4 C. Jesus
- 1/2 tsp. church

Mix ingredients together with my fun friends for the perfect Catholic school.

### From the kitchen of Chloe Drinkard

- 2 C. paint
- 1 C. friends
- 1/2 C. caring
- 2/3 C. recess
- 1/4 C. sharing
- 1/2 tsp. colors

Mix ingredients together with teachers and love for the perfect Catholic school.

### From the kitchen of Esai Magana

- 2 C. rest time
- 1 C. recess
- 1/2 C. playing
- 2/3 C. friends
- 1/4 C. fun
- 1/2 tsp. P.E.

Mix ingredients together with Jesus for the perfect Catholic school.

### From the kitchen of Gentry Brant

- 2 C. church
- 1 C. painting
- 1/2 C. after school care
- 2/3 C. playing
- 1/4 C. smiley faces
- 1/2 tsp. friends

Mix ingredients together with teacher and family for the perfect Catholic school.

### From the kitchen of Griffin Knipp

- 2 C. Jesus
- 1 C. learning
- 1/2 C. recess
- 2/3 C. playing
- 1/4 C. snack
- 1/2 tsp. fun

Mix ingredients together with playing freeze tag in P.E. for the perfect Catholic school.

### From the kitchen of Hallie Rymer

- 2 C. praying
- 1 C. Jesus
- 1/2 C. God
- 2/3 C. church
- 1/4 cying
- 1/2 tsp. helping

Mix ingredients together with a



## Preschool chefs

St. Andrew's preschoolers are, from the left, Hallie Rymer, Griffin Knipp, Esai Magana, Bennett Oswald, Chloe Drinkard, Anden Higgins, Gentry Brant, Beau Knipp, Stella Oswald and Houston Knipp. They created their own recipes for the perfect Catholic school.

spoon and lots of love for the perfect Catholic schools.

### From the kitchen of Houston Knipp

- 2 C. playing
- 1 C. toys
- 1/2 C. snack
- 2/3 C. Jesus

- 1/4 C. P.E.
- 1/2 tsp. coloring

Mix ingredients together in the snow for the perfect Catholic school.

### From the kitchen of Stella Oswald

- 2 C. Lunch
- 1 C. friends
- 1/2 C. playing
- 2/3 C. learning
- 1/4 C. Jesus
- 1/2 tsp. love

Mix ingredients together with toys and fun for the perfect Catholic school.

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# St. Andrew's is special for kindergartners

Rhonda Bookout's kindergarten - students responded to the question, "What do you like best about coming to a Catholic school/St. Andrew School?"

**Isabel Berwanger** - To learn about numbers. I like the songs at church.

**Hudson Hagerman** - I like P.E., playing in the kitchen, going to Price James Library and standing up in church.

**Hayden Huhmann** - I like recess, playtime and PE and lunch.

**Emmett Myers** - I like when-ever we go out to recess, I meet new friends.

**Layton Petree** - I like center time with magnets and recess and praying.

**Harper Sanders** - I like that it has fun things to do like going outside and teaching my friends stuff and being kind. I like doing the rosary outside.

**Stellan Schaffter** - I like the recesses and art and I like P.E. and I like when we go to the prayer corner at the end of the day.

**Kambree Sheets** - We get to go to recess. We get to have centers. We get to do prayer at the end of the day.

**Tilly Tuttle** - That we get to do church and I like to have recess and when it's lunchtime.

**Harrison Twenter** - That it has church and that church is where our moms and dads go too. That this school has car riders and north door. We do math. This school is holy.



## In kindergarten

St. Andrew School kindergartners are, from the left: Bottom row, Tilly Tuttle, Stellan Schaffter, Layton Petree; middle, Harper Sanders, Emmett Myers, Harrison Twenter, Hudson Hagerman; top, Kambree Sheets, Isabel Berwanger and Hayden Huhmann.

# The Tipton Padre

by Fr. Anthony Viviano  
pastor, St. Andrew Church



Catholic Schools Week is a wonderful time to recognize and to celebrate Catholic education. I am a product of Catholic schooling from elementary through college.

I have fond memories of Our Lady of Loretto, Chaminade College Prep and Benedictine College. In many ways these places of Catholic education have helped to form me into who I am today.

This is why I am so happy for our families who choose to send their children to St. Andrew's. I know that our students are picking up "little nuggets" of faith and personal formation along the way, which they will take with them through life. The goal is that by

time they leave St. Andrew's, our students are more aware of who God is calling them to be, through the lens of their Catholic faith.

Our Catholic schools throughout the diocese are privileged to be entrusted with the youth of our parishes and beyond. We take this responsibility seriously, and we are able to supplement the formation that our students are hopefully receiving at home.

My prayer before retiring every evening is: "Lord, please bless our students and parents, our principal and our teachers. Please help us to bring our students and their families closer to You".

# Principal's note about Catholic schools

by Kara Higgins, Principal  
St. Andrew School

National Catholic Schools Week is an annual celebration to showcase what makes Catholic education at St. Andrew School so amazing. This week, we join Catholic schools across the nation in recognizing and celebrating the enduring values that define our mission: faith, excellence, and service. We recognize our students and faculty, families, parishioners, and community.

The theme is "Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community." This theme reminds us of the vital role our schools play in the Church and society. From instilling a love of learning to encouraging acts of service, Catholic education equips students with the tools to succeed and the values to lead meaningful

lives.

St. Andrew School is more than just a place of learning. We are a community by shared faith and commitment to every student to live out the Gospel values and become compassionate, responsible, and faith-filled individuals. Our dedicated faculty and staff work hard to provide an education that challenges students academically while fostering their personal growth. By integrating faith, we encourage students to discover their God-given talents and use them to make a difference in the world.

Throughout Catholic Schools Week, there are a variety of activities planned for the students, staff, families, and community. We begin with Mass on Sunday led by the students, families, and staff.

The students participate in secret angels where they deliver messages throughout the week to another student or staff and reveal themselves on Friday with their favorite candy. Students are appreciated with a dress down day, dodgeball tournament, and an educational assembly. Staff and volunteers are appreciated with a luncheon sponsored by PTO. The students participate in a service project delivering snacks to community helpers as well as a living rosary after Mass. Families are appreciated with a family night and ending our week with a guest lunch.

St. Andrew School is thankful for all the support of families, parishioners, and the community who invest in Catholic education for these students and teachers. We look forward to celebrating Catholic Schools Week and are truly blessed to have St. Andrew School!



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# First graders at St. Andrew's share their growing faith



## Snow fun

St. Andrew first graders recently had a little snow fun on the playground. From the left are: Sitting Corbin Backes, Easton Long, Brooks Huhmann, Shawn Kliethermes, Annie Hunsburger; standing, CiCi Huhmann, Ella Ash, Koralee Sheets, Reaston Wise and Emmy Higgins.

First graders at St. Andrew School were interviewed by their teacher, JoAnn Huhmann, about what they like best about their school. Following are their responses.

I like my teacher and all of my friends. I like Art, PE and coloring. I love Jesus too.

Ella Ash

We get to learn about God and kindness.

Corbin Backes

I get to see my friends and learn new things everyday. The food Ms. Lisa cooks is really good. I like to learn about Religion and Math.

Emmy Higgins

I like talking about Jesus and God. First grade is fun. I like Lunch, PE, Art, Music, Recess and wearing uniforms.

Brooks Huhmann

It is very fun and I get to see my

friends. Father Viviano is really funny. I like Religion class.

CiCi Huhmann

I like the Church, Jesus, Mary, God, Recess, PE, my friends and learning is what I love.

Annie Hunsburger

P.E. is fun. We learn about Jesus and God. I like studying about the Saints.

Shawn Kliethermes

We get to go to Church. I pray and learn about God. At school I can make friends, and there is a lot to learn about.

Easton Long

I get to see my friends and learn about God and Jesus. It is fun to go to PE. I like going to Church.

Koralee Sheets

Studying is fun. I like going to Church, praying, and loving Jesus.

Reaston Wise

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# Second graders write about going to a Catholic school



## Field trip

St. Andrew second graders got together for a group photo on their fall field trip to Bridal Cave. From the left are: Front row, Henry Bestgen, Hadley Twyman, Emmett Kliethermes and Jaciel Arango; back, Sebastian Cardoso, Granger Rymer, Norah Petree, Cwynn Drinkard, Gabriel Romo, Linkoln Knipp, Kayson Sheets and Ryker Foster.

Shawna Bax' second graders at St. Andrew School wrote about why they like coming to a Catholic school.

peaceful school. The school is loved by God. And all the teachers are very nice.

**Jaciel Arango** - I like learning about God and the Saints. And we get to pray to God.

**Linkoln Knipp** - It makes me happy, Catholic, and holy.

**Henry Bestgen** - We get to learn about God. There are good teachers here. We get to go to church every Wednesday and Friday.

**Norah Petree** - I get to see my friends and learn about Jesus and we have good lunches.

**Sebastian Cardoso** - I love God and like learning about God. And we get to go to church.

**Gabriel Romo** - I get to learn about God and we pray a lot. I have fun here. I learn about the Saints.

**Cwynn Drinkard** - We can learn about Jesus. And I like Math.

**Granger Rymer** - I like PE, church, and learning about Jesus and God. I like Math and the lunches.

**Ryker Foster** - You can learn alot and have fun with your friends.

**Kayson Sheets** - Math and recess are fun. I like learning cur-sive. I like the teachers here.

**Emmett Kliethermes**- It helps me learn about God and also it's a

**Hadley Twyman** - We get to learn about Jesus.



## Christmas artists

Donna Raymond's students made ornaments for their trees at home prior to the Christmas break. Kindergartners shown working on theirs are, clockwise from the top left are Stelland Schaffter, Kambree Sheets, Emmett Myers, Layton Petree, Isabel Berwanger, Hudson Hagerman, Harrison Twenter, Hayden Huhmann, Tilly Tuttle and Harper Sanders.

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### Celebrating friends

St. Andrew School third graders enjoy their “Friendsgiving” meal in their classroom. Clockwise from the bottom center are Yareli Fuentes, Cason Shaffter, Deeken Lawson, Carter Higgins, Caleb Kleithermes, Brant Uptergrove, Mia Myers, Molly Gump, Karlie Doss, Tindle Backes, Stevie Huhmann, Hailey Uptergrove and Hope Clifford. Not pictured is Everly Hagerman.

## Third Grade Collaborative Acrostic Poem

Third graders in Amanda Nolt-ing’s class collaborated to write an acrostic poem for Catholic Schools Week. Their poem is as follows.



**Catholic Schools**  
United in Faith and Community

**Christ is the light of this school!**

**Awesome school**

**Talented students**

**Hope for the future**

**Obedient faithful**

**followers of Christ**

**Learning about Christ**

**Inspire me to work harder**

**Cheerful classrooms**

**Sacred hearts**

**Christian students**

**Hardworking students and staff**

**Open-hearted people**

**Outstanding lunches**

**Love one another**

# The ABCs of a Catholic education, by fourth graders

**J**essica Guymon’s fourth grade students thought of words to describe a Catholic education for every letter of the alphabet. Some students quoted passages from the Bible to show the importance of their word and to show how Christ is the center of our faith and education.

**A** is for Attention. “Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.” (Hebrews 2:1)  
Lorna Hunsburger

**B** is for Baptism. We are baptized into His family.  
Jules Millan

**C** is for Compassion. “Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.” (Joel 2:13)  
Liam Foster

**D** is for Do – Do unto others as you want done unto you. (Luke 6:31)  
Porter Huhmann

**E** is for Education. Our Catholic education teaches us about virtues.  
Marko Fuentes

**F** is for Faith. “For we walk by faith, not by sight.” (2 Corinthians 5:7)  
Liam Foster

**G** is for Gratitude. “Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.” (Psalm 106:1)  
Piper Twyman

**H** is for Holy Spirit-God, speaker to our souls.  
Ezequiel Bedolla

**I** is for Immaculate. Jesus is immaculate- without sin.  
Lorna Hunsburger

**J** is for Jesus. Jesus died on the cross for every single one of us.  
Payton Stoecklein

**K** is for Kindness. “Never neglect to show kindness and to share what you have with others;” (Hebrews 13:16)  
Cain Drinkard

**L** is for Love. “Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:39)  
Vida Pettigrew

**M** is for Mercy. “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.” (Luke 6:36)  
Vida Pettigrew

**N** is for Nice. We are called to be nice to all people.  
Sebastian Romo

**O** is for Omega. Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. (Revelations 22:13)  
Marko Fuentes

**P** is for Prayer & Patience. “Rejoice in hope, be patient in your troubles, and pray at all times.” (Romans 12:12)  
Payton Stoecklein

**Q** is for Queen. Mary is the queen of Heaven and Earth.  
Ruby Tuttle



### Plant models

St. Andrew’s fourth graders make models of vascular and nonvascular plants in science.

**R** is for Resurrection. Jesus rose from the dead and is still alive today.  
Ila Petree

**S** is for Sacrifice. Jesus was sacrificed for us.  
Ezequiel Bedolla

**T** is for Trust. Trust in the Lord with all your heart, mind, and soul.  
Jules Millan

**U** is for Understanding. “I do not seek to understand in order that I

may believe, but I believe in order that I may understand.” (St. Anselm)  
Cain Drinkard

**V** is for Virtue. A virtue is a holy habit. Catholic schools try to help us develop virtues.  
Ruby Tuttle.

**W** is for Wisdom. “For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.” (Proverbs 2:6)

Piper Twyman

**X** is Greek for Christ. Christ is the center of our education.  
Ila Petree.

**Y** is for Yahweh. Yahweh is God and our savior forever.  
Liam Foster.

**Z** is for Zeal. “Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.” (Romans 12:11)  
Porter Huhmann.

# Why fifth graders like going to a Catholic School

St. Andrew fifth graders wrote paragraphs about why they like attending a Catholic school to encourage others to consider it themselves. Their teacher is Alyson Drinkard.

**by Cade Gump**

At St. Andrews school we go to church twice a week, which is a great way to strengthen our relationship with God. We have very nice teachers who will help you whenever you need it. We have little classes that are great for getting to know everyone. The real reason you should go to St. Andrews is because everyone gets to learn about God and be with him more.

**by Maren Kliethermes**

What I love most about school at St. Andrews is that you get to meet new students every year. The teachers are the friendliest people you would ever know. You get to learn all about God, Saints, Jesus, and the Mass. You get nice and kind friends. Mrs. Higgins is the best principal ever. You get to have school families, a big dodgeball tournament with the whole school.

**by Blaine Dicus**

You should go to Saint Andrew school because it is a loving school that cares for all of their students. It also has great teachers that will make sure you are safe at all times and will help you if you are hurt. They also have great cooks that make the best food and their students are kind and caring for others. So if you live in Missouri you should come down to Saint Andrew school.

**by Blaine Upetergrove**

St. Andrew School is a good

place for you if you are looking for good academics and want to know more about God. We have amazing teachers and one of the best principals. You will have mass on Wednesday and Friday. All Catholics in Missouri this is the school to go to.

**by Eli McDonald**

I like Saint Andrews school because we have fun recesses and good education. I think you should go to Saint Andrews because we have good education, the teachers are nice and every year we get to go on a few field trips. I think Saint Andrews would be good for you and start following Jesus Christ and learn more about him and start your journey with Jesus now.

**by Hannah Uptergrove**

If you are looking for a school to go to, choose Saint Andrew School. The teachers teach how to grow stronger in your faith and how to become the best version of yourself. We go to Mass every Friday and Wednesday. You will receive a great education. There are many more reasons why you should attend Saint Andrew School.

**by Miguel Ubaldo**

St Andrew school is a place full of wonders. If you are a christian in Missouri, St Andrew school is the place to go. We have good food, great teachers, and the best principal in all of Missouri. This school is full of greatness. Once you come here you won't regret it.

**by Emma Cotten**

I think people should go to St. Andrew School because of the



## Fifth graders

St. Andrew School fifth graders are, from the left, Stella Schlotzhauer, Emma Cotten, Hannah Uptergrove, Maren Kliethermes, Blaine Dicus, Blaine Uptergrove, Miguel Ubaldo, Eli McDonald and Cade Gump.

food! Our cook Mrs. Lisa makes the best food and she is very friendly. The teachers are amazing, they are very nice and love to help people. The best thing in my opinion is the friends you make along the way and my education.

**by Stella Schlotzhauer**

St. Andrew School is such a great school, here are the reasons why. First, there is such great education here, and the teachers are very organized with their work. Ever since I came here it has been so much fun. At St Andrew we go

to church every Wednesday and is my reason to come to St Andrew Friday, and learn about God. That school.

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# Sixth, seventh graders promote Catholic school

Julie Bailey's sixth and seventh graders at St. Andrew School wrote essays on the prompt, "What do you like most about attending a Catholic School?"

## **Sixth graders** by Hael Pascual

Attending St. Andrew's Catholic School is helpful. The school has helped me learn more about my faith. It also helps me when I'm struggling to learn. My classmates are really nice and helpful. I love being a student at St. Andrew School.

Being at St. Andrew has helped grow my faith. Religion is one of my favorite classes. It's easy; it's short, and I love learning about Christ. The mass I love because the school comes together and sings and gets to receive communion and pray. The feast day is fun because we get to put on a little show for everyone at mass and we get to bring food for all the kids to eat in sixth grade and after that we get to go to fun places and after we get ice cream. The rosary is when all the students and teachers get in a circle and say the Hail Mary prayer one by one.

The environment at St. Andrew School has helped build up my knowledge. Literature is my favorite class. On Wednesday we get to go out to the library. And to get there we have to go outside of the school and walk to the library. On Friday we go to the religion room to read or do homework basically like a study hall. I like the small classes because I don't like when there are a lot of people. It can sometimes distract me, but with less I can maybe get my work done. The kind teachers are the best because they can help get my work done. They teach in really simple ways. And they stay in the after school study hall to help with homework. The food at St. Andrew's is the best, because there are nachos, tacos, spaghetti and all other amazing foods.

St. Andrew School has given me new knowledge and helped me grow closer to God. My teachers and classmates are really nice people who care about me. Attending this school has helped me to improve my English and learn more about my Catholic faith. This school has helped me a lot through my first year at St. Andrew's.

## **by Camryn Drinkard**

I love attending St. Andrew School! They have fun activities, and a wonderful school environment. They also teach about our faith everyday. We go to church every Wednesday and Friday, so we get closer to God. Everyone should attend St. Andrew School, it's

amazing!

To start with, the activities are so fun, and sometimes we learn when we play. Some of the activities we do are, Chew 'n' Views, Family tournaments, dress down days, field trips and birthday treats. My personal favorite is the Family tournaments, playing dodgeball and we get time out of school. All of the activities are amazing and wonderful at the same time, anybody would love this school!

The second thing I like about St. Andrew school is their wonderful school environment. The students and teachers are very kind. We also learn a bunch. Plus their food is great. Anyone would be very lucky to go to this school and have their amazing school environment.

These are some of the reasons I love St. Andrew school. We have great teachers, food and education. Anyone would love this school. The people are amazing too. It's the best you should attend!

## **by Brycen Stoecklein**

Catholic schools are great! One reason is the many ways to practice your faith. Another reason is there are not many kids so you get more attention from teachers.. Lastly is that you know everyone and we are all friends. There are many more ways to learn about God in a great environment like St. Andrew's.

Schools like St. Andrew's have great ways to practice our Catholic faith. One way is getting to go to mass and receive communion. Another is Catholic Schools Week, which is a fun way to learn about Christ. Also, there is religion where we get assignments to remember what we are getting taught about God. The last method we use is servers club where we get taught how to serve Father Viviano at mass. There are many more ways to practice faith, but it cannot be done without a great environment.

The environment at Catholic schools like St. Andrew's is amazing and here is how. First of all there are Family assemblies which are fantastic. Also, every now and then we get a visit from Father Viviano which is fun and enjoyable. Last but not least is the lunches. The lunches here are the best food ever. Mrs. Lisa is the greatest school cook ever.

This is why Catholic schools are life changing. There are many ways to learn about God like the ones I listed. The environment is amazing and there are many fun activities. Most important of all is that everyone is friends and helps each other out. I hope this was a helpful reminder of how lucky people are to attend a Catholic school.



## **Attending Catholic school**

Sixth and seventh graders are, from the left: Front row, Corbin Doyle, Kaid Hentges, Porter Long, Tyson Hampton, Kynli Hentges, Harper Bestgen; middle, Hael Pascual, Camryn Drinkard, Gabby Huff, Leighla Nolting, Brycen Stoecklein, Will Martin, Millie Lawson, Elizabeth Hunsburger; back, Jorge Bedolla, Coen Drinkard, Will Millan, Jaxon Stoecklein, Cole Moon, Lila Uptergrove and Addie Kincaid.

## **by Porter Long**

I love going to a Catholic school. We get to learn about Christ and grow in our faith by practicing our religion daily. We get to do exciting activities with each other that help us to develop close relationships. This school has helped me to become a better Christian. Attending St. Andrew School is fantastic and learning about our faith is awesome.

The faith at my school is amazing. Everybody gets to go to mass and there is a club called the servers club that teaches you how to serve at mass. We get religion and in that class we get to read the Bible and learn about Christ. There are feast days, which is when all of the kids in a grade get to perform a skit in front of the school at mass and get to go on a field trip. We get to go to confession and confess our sins. My favorite week is Catholic Schools Week when everybody gets to do fun activities. In my opinion, the best activity is when the whole school does a dodgeball tournament. Everything is really fun.

The environment at my school is great. We have awesome teachers, we all get a great education and the classes are smaller. They are also really fun. Our cooks make amazing lunches and everyone is really kind. It is really fun to hang out and talk with everybody.

As you can see, my school is really fun to go to. Everyone is kind and friendly. The environment is great and fun to be in. I get to practice my faith and learn about Christ. It is a great school to go to.

## **by Will Martin**

Along with other Catholic schools around the world St. Andrew's celebrates Catholic Schools Week at the end of January. I would like to explain why I like St. Andrew School.

One amazing concept in our school is the environment. Faith is also a wonderful priority of our school. I love practicing my faith every day with all my friends. These are the reasons why I enjoy attending a Catholic school.

At St. Andrew's we have an amazing education and teachers. The cooks are very nice and serve fantastic meals every day. I love that the classes are small so I can get to know everyone. We also have challenging subjects to prepare us for the future. These are not the only amazing concepts about St. Andrew's.

The main reason I love going to St. Andrew's is the faith that they teach us. The church is a beautiful place where I can worship God. I love participating in mass and in the prayers. Feast days are skits that you act out that teach us about saints. Religion class is where we make and practice the skits. Learning about saints is an aspect of faith that I enjoy.

This school is amazing and means a lot to me. Catholic Schools Week is the best way to let it thrive. The faith they teach us inspires me to love God more. The environment is loving and caring. Come celebrate Catholic Schools Week with us.

## **by Tyson Hampton**

I love my Catholic school so

much. There are so many reasons why I love it. Those reasons include the environment I work in. They also include my faith that I learn about everyday. I love attending a Catholic school and learning in an amazing environment.

I love attending a Catholic School because of the environment. The teachers and students make school interesting instead of boring as it normally would be. The small classes make it a more quiet and relaxed area to learn and work in. Fun activities, such as the dodgeball tournament and chew and views, make the environment so exciting and gives me something to look forward to. I love my Catholic school because of the environment and other reasons like learning about my faith.

I also love my Catholic school because of my faith. We learn about our Religion everyday that school is in session. At school, students have religion class everyday and Mass on Wednesday and Friday. Children attending also do fun activities that help make learning about Christ fun. An example of one of these activities would be Catholic Schools Week. I love my Catholic school so much because of my faith and many other topics.

In conclusion, I love my Catholic school a whole bunch. I love it for so many reasons. Those reasons include learning about my faith every single day. They also include the wonderful environment that I get to learn in. That is why I love my Catholic school so very much.

Continued on next page



# • Sixth and seventh graders write essays

by **Millie Lawson**

Going to a Catholic school has many benefits. It is important for me to go to St. Andrew's because I am the fifth generation in my family to attend. My mom, grandma, great-grandma and great-great-grandma all attended St. Andrew's. This tradition is very important to my faith and my family. Carrying on this tradition is an honor. Being able to attend Saint Andrew School is a tradition that helps me grow in my faith while providing a nurturing environment for me to learn.

At St. Andrew School we have brilliant ways that can help us grow in our faith. We get provided a time once a month to go confess our sins in confession. We do this because it helps us keep close to Christ. We go to mass on Wednesdays and Fridays. Most of us also go to church on the weekends. We get to see some of our teachers at mass. Once a year, every class gets a feast day during mass, brunch with our families and a field trip. Every class looks forward to the special day. The person who plans junior high feast days is our amazing teacher, Ms. Heinen. I love having religion class with her. I learn so much about my faith. All the teachers, no matter what they teach, help us grow in our faith.

St. Andrew school has a fantastic environment. I love having a small school with small classes. There is an amazing cook, Mrs. Lisa, who serves us delicious lunches. Every day we have combined science with the fifth grade. In addition, we have combined literature with seventh grade on Wednesdays and Fridays. Playing basketball and volleyball with my friends on a small team is also amazing because we all get to play in games. These reasons come together to show how fantastic the environment is at Saint Andrew.

There are so many benefits to attending a Catholic school. Attending Saint Andrew includes me in a five generation tradition in my family. Saint Andrew School helps encourage me to grow in my faith by attending mass and having teachers that nourish my Catholic faith. The environment provided at Saint Andrew's is amazing because I enjoy playing sports and getting to interact with other classes. All in all, my experience at Saint Andrew's is a timeless tradition where I look forward to continuing to grow in my faith.

by **Gabby Huff**

I am so glad that I have the opportunity to go to a Catholic school! My favorite part about my school is the great environment. Something else that I love about attending a Catholic school is that we get to practice our faith. Going to St. An-

drew's has taught me how to use my faith in daily life so I become a better person. These are important reasons that I love about St. Andrew School. In these next paragraphs I will explain why.

There are many reasons why I love the environment here at St. Andrew School, starting with the great teachers. Teachers show us by example how to be better Christians. We have amazing teachers who never fail to teach cool, fun and interesting lessons. If I ever need help, they are always there to guide me. Another reason I love the environment in my school is because of the students. We have amazing students that are always so kind and caring. Whenever I am feeling down or am having a bad day my friends always make me feel better. Being surrounded by good people encourages me to be a better person.

Another reason that I love going to a Catholic school is being able to practice and grow my faith. We get to participate in mass on Wednesday and Fridays. We also get to celebrate feast days, which is not common in many other schools. Feast days are special days where each class gets to pick a saint that they feel is a good Catholic role model. The celebration includes participating in mass roles and acting out a skit that is inspired by the saint. Recently, my sixth grade class celebrated the life of St. Lucy and shared how she lived a life of faith with our fellow students.

In conclusion, there are many reasons why I enjoy attending a Catholic school. Being able to grow your faith in an encouraging and supportive environment makes a Catholic school worth attending. I am able to attend mass and participate in the sacraments which brings me closer to Jesus. Going to a Catholic school is a great privilege for students. I am proud to be a student at St. Andrew School.

by **Leighla Nolting**

I love attending a Catholic school. Catholic schools are like public schools but better because our day is filled with God. We study the same subjects, but we also learn about the right from the wrong. We focus on the path to heaven. St. Andrew School helps us grow our faith and provides us with a great environment.

What I love most is getting to grow in my faith. This includes going to mass during school. We also celebrate Feast days and sacraments. We attend religion class and discuss God in all subjects. We also get to pray throughout the day with my faith-filled teachers and classmates. At St. Andrew's I get to grow in my faith.

I also love our school's environ-

ment. We have small classes, great lunches, and we get special celebrations like Catholic Schools Week. During Catholic Schools Week we have assemblies and a school wide dodgeball tournament. Our school also showcases faith-based decorations to remind us God is always with us. Our Catholic school environment is the best.

I love attending St. Andrew School. I am blessed with faithfilled environments for learning.

by **Elizabeth Hunsburger**

I'm so grateful that I get to go to a Catholic school. I love that I can learn about my faith. At St. Andrew's we have a great environment, not only to learn in but to make lifelong friends. One of the aspects at Catholic school is getting to practice my faith. These are just some of the benefits of attending St. Andrew's.

Faith is so important to me. My favorite topic that our school teaches is about Jesus. I love that we can have a religion class and mass. I also love Catholic Schools Week because it is nice to have a whole week dedicated to attending a Catholic school. In the morning we do a prayer service except Wednesdays and Fridays when we have church. To me instilling faith in children is very important.

Having a great environment is crucial in good school. Something that makes our environment so great is our school families and great teachers. I love our dodgeball tournaments, and Chew and Views. One thing we have that most schools don't are excellent lunches. Our school provides a great learning environment. Our classes are challenging but fun. Having a great learning environment is critical for children.

As you can see our school is amazing. There are countless things that make our school amazing. My favorites are faith and the environment. Both of these are very important. Overall our school is great and I wouldn't change anything.

**Seventh graders**  
by **Jaxon Stoecklein**

Catholic schools are amazing. We are surrounded by an amazing environment and have really great relationships with our outstanding teachers. Also group activities help us grow in faith. These are two of the many reasons why I love my Catholic school. St. Andrew's Christian atmosphere has helped me to grow spiritually.

Our environment at St. Andrew allows us to grow in faith in many ways. One is having friends that are Christians who believe mostly the same stuff I do in my faith life. Having small classes at St. Andrew allows us to have strong relationships

with our fantastic teachers who set examples of good Catholics. They also are able to help us with our work more easily because of the small classes. Plus we have amazing cooks, who always remember I don't want cheese on my taco.

I love the environment and the group activities. We have many group activities. Some of them include School Families, basketball and the Living Rosary. These group activities help us with coaches and Family teachers who set examples of how to act. We are able to pray in groups at school. A good example is the Living Rosary. The Living Rosary is where we pray the rosary as a school. Group activities are super fun and help me grow as a person in my faith life.

In conclusion, this is how attending a Catholic school has helped me grow in my faith life. Our environment helps us have amazing relationships with our teachers. I like the group activities and students. My basketball teammates are amazing people in their faith life. I love all this about my Catholic school.

by **Harper Bestgen**

Attending a Catholic School has helped me grow in my faith in many ways. From preparation and education, to personal and group practices, I am very lucky to have the opportunity to take part in St. Andrew School. I am so thankful for all the teachers and staff members for guiding me throughout my faith journey.

Growing in my faith means getting the proper education and being prepared. At St. Andrew's, I get to learn about the history of my religion and how the Catholic Church was built by Jesus. Having a designated class focusing on Catholicism is very important to me. Ms. Heinen, my religion teacher, has taught me so much about what it means to be a Christian. Being able to ask my instructors questions about my faith allows me to deepen my understanding of the Catholic faith. Understanding the religion leads me to be more prepared in my spiritual life. My education and preparation has helped me grow my faith greatly.

My faith journey is upheld by a variety of both personal and group practices. Attending mass twice a week has allowed me to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion while getting to better know Jesus in the Eucharist. Reading the Bible helps me to understand God's Word more deeply, which leads my prayers to be stronger. Going to Benediction and Adoration every month is such a wonderful blessing. I get to have alone time with the Lord while telling him all my fears, doubts and troubles and giving them to Him. By sharing what I learn

about my faith with others, I can lead them to grow closer to Our Lord. At St. Andrew's, we pray every day and practicing prayer helps me grow stronger in my religion. Every so often the school participates in a living rosary. When I hear and recite the prayers, I feel the warmth of Our Lady watching over me. Both personal and group practice has helped me deeply grow in my faith.

In conclusion, I am very lucky to attend St. Andrew School, where I can grow both spiritually and mentally in the Catholic faith. Through personal and group practice, to preparation and education, I am very close to the Lord, and I have St. Andrew's to thank for that.

by **Kaid Hentges**

Attending the public school has made me realize how important attending a Catholic school really is. Switching to a Catholic school has helped me grow in my faith. I get to go to church two times a week. Church helps expand my faith by the body and blood of Jesus Christ. Attending a Catholic school has changed me thanks to the faithful environment of St. Andrew school.

Everyday I get to practice my faith at school. I get to talk with God through prayer. The amazing teachers guide me to become a better person. I have religion class every day for 40 minutes. Ms. Heinen teaches me about my faith. Doing the living rosary helps me expand my relationship with God. All these daily practices encourage me to keep growing my faith.

At St. Andrew School we participate in activities to connect with God. On our feast days we perform a skit from the Bible, and we get to go on a field trip. Confirmation is where we accept responsibility for our practices of faith. Part of the process for confirmation is we pick a saint, then a sponsor - my sponsor is Ms. Heinen. I get to go to CYO, (Catholic Youth Organization). That is where me and my friends go to learn about Jesus and we play games and get to know each other. CYO goes from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

In conclusion, this school has helped me become a better person and friend. Out of any school I would want to go it is St. Andrew. The people, friends, and family is the reason I am at this school today. The small classes help me focus, and when I need help the teachers help me. This school has shaped my faith and outlook of things. This has helped me share my beliefs with others through my knowledge about the faith.

Continued on next page

# • Seventh graders essays continued

keep in my heart through my life.

by **Coen Drinkard**

St. Andrew school has helped me grow in my faith in many ways. It has taught me many things I didn't know. School allows me to go to church every Wednesday and Friday. I am also learning about Confirmation through CYO (Catholic Youth Organization). Those are some examples on how being in a Catholic school can help grow my faith.

In order to practice my Catholic faith I chose to do the Serving Club, one of our group activities. It is a great club where you meet with other servers and learn how to serve with perfection. Second, I participate in CYO. CYO is when all of junior high comes together at night and plays multiple games. We also talk about God. Another group activity I enjoy is standing in a circle every quarter and saying the rosary. It is so heart-warming to hear the whole school's voice. One last group activity we have is school families. School families are not real families, but are a group of students who get to know each other by playing games. Those are ways on how being in a Christian school can help my faith.

Preparation and education are a massive part of my Catholic faith. An example of this is praying before and after I eat or learning about the Bible and scriptures. I have religion class every day and it teaches me so much. Ms. Heinen teaches me stories about Christ that I have never heard before. Finally, one major thing that is teaching me an assortment of things is Confirmation. Confirmation is when you pick and learn about a saint, but you also have to pick a saint's name. My saint is St. Dimitar and I chose his name because he is the patron saint of winter, cold and snow. Those are some ways on how preparation and education can help my Catholic faith.

These are some of the ways attending a Catholic school can help to grow your faith. I can't wait to continue learning about Confirmation, but I also can't wait to see my school family again. That is why I love attending a Catholic school. Some examples are religion class, CYO and Confirmation. As you can see there are many benefits to attending a Catholic school.

by **Kynli Hentges**

St. Andrew's has positively affected my Catholic faith. My participation in religion class and Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) has helped me grow closer to God. Being involved in adoration and confession has helped me be more active in the teachings of the Church. Attending school at St. Andrew has had a huge impact on me and my beliefs.

Religion class and CYO have given me a lot of reasons to like St. Andrew's. My religion teacher, Ms. Heinen, has helped me grow in my faith by teaching the ways of God.

She has expanded my faith in many ways, for instance, she has taught us about the Bible, informed us about a lot of the saints lives, and starts classes with prayers then ends with prayers. Other ways my faith has been expanded is through CYO. I love how we have church on Wednesdays and Fridays because we can listen to God's good deeds that he has accomplished. Lastly, my school has helped me in many ways that I can't even imagine.

Every month we have adoration and confession. I think it is a good idea because it makes me feel closer to God and my faith. During adoration it is quiet and peaceful, it makes me feel as if I am in a magnificent dream with everybody singing around me. When everybody is quiet that is when we are praising the Lord. In confession we are saying our sins and being forgiven, after we say the prayers he tells us. You only truly get forgiven if you really mean what you said and did. I always feel so free and happy after my sins are forgiven.

In conclusion, my Catholic faith has changed dramatically, because of the sacraments, Ms. Heinen's class, and CYO. All of these have made me closer to God and stronger in my religion. I look forward to growing in my Catholic faith in the future. In conclusion my school has made me realize how lucky I am to be here and learn about the Catholic faith.

by **Jorge Bedolla**

Attending St. Andrew School has grown my faith with God frequently. It has allowed me to be more prepared, educated and wise for later in life. Also, it's helped me grow as a Catholic person. I have also made some new friends from it too.

Being at St. Andrew's has allowed me to go to Mass frequently so I can go to Confirmation prepared. It also has prepared me for later in life so I can spread the Word of God. Also, when I go to confession I grow closer to God. On top of that, I have a fun, loving teacher in Ms. Heinen. Additionally, I have friends that help me learn about God.

Attending a Catholic school plays a significant role in deepening and growing my faith. The daily exposure to Catholic teaching and prayers creates a strong spiritual foundation that I can rely on throughout my life. This community fosters an environment where faith is not just taught, but lived out through service projects, Mass, and opportunities for personal reflection. Teachers and staff are always available to guide me in understanding the importance of prayer, Scripture and the sacraments. Through these experiences, I am developing a closer relationship with God and the teachers and am learning to apply Christian values in my everyday actions, making faith an important part of my life, which I plan to

by **William Millan**

A Catholic school has helped me grow in my faith in more than one way. A Catholic environment is one way, and a good way, too. A second reason a Catholic school has helped is my education in the faith. I will talk about different reasons in my essay.

The first thing that comes to mind when someone says a Catholic school is a Catholic environment. A Catholic environment is when I have people who are Catholic to talk to me and help us grow in our faith. It also means that I attend mass every Wednesday and Friday. A Catholic environment isn't always about people, it can be about the sacraments, too. A Catholic environment allows me to go to Benediction, or go to Confession more.

Another reason attending a Catholic school has helped me, is with my education in our faith. Being in a Catholic school lets me learn more about saints and the scripture. It also lets me watch Catholic videos and read Catholic books. Being in a Catholic school also lets me learn more about God every day. It also helps me prepare myself better for Confirmation.

A Catholic school has shaped me and many more lives, but I think a Catholic school has shaped me more than most. A Catholic environment and a Catholic education are good, but not as good as the sacraments. The sacraments are one of the easiest ways to see God, and that is the biggest thing about a Catholic school, the sacraments.

by **Cole Moon**

Attending St. Andrew School has helped to grow my faith by making Jesus the forefront of my day. We start each day in prayer, we pray at lunch, and before each test. Our teachers encourage us to pray many times a day. I think this helps me keep a positive attitude.

I'm thankful for such great teachers like Mrs. Bailey, Mrs. Nolting, Ms. Heinen, and Mrs. Drinkard because they always encourage me to grow my faith. Our daily schedule is centered around mass. We also read the Bible. All of my teachers give me religious strength that I will use for the rest of my life.

Most of the day we do school work and pray but we all like that about this school. All of the time I have my friends cheering me on. I know that I would not have that at any other school. I appreciate all the teachers that I have had over the years. My teachers and friends at St. Andrew School made me the best person I could ever be. I love learning more with my friends about God's story. St. Andrew School has helped me grow my faith so much over the four years I have been here and I thank my teachers for all the positivity they

have given me and the other strengths they have made me realize I had with me. That is why St. Andrew School is the best.

by **Adalena Kincaid**

Attending St. Andrew School has helped grow my faith by preparing me to receive the sacraments and educating me about my faith. Another reason is having a relationship with Catholic people and being in a Catholic environment. I personally love going to a Catholic school because I have learned more about my religion than if I didn't attend St. Andrew. St. Andrew has taught me plenty about my faith varying from educating me, having strong relationships and a welcoming environment. I will first talk about how a Catholic School has prepared me to receive the sacraments and how they have educated me on my religion.

Going to St. Andrew's has prepared me to receive the Holy Sacraments. The Holy Sacraments prepare me because they grow my faith more and help me overcome challenges in the world. A Catholic School educates me by having a Religion class. This class helps me know more about the history of my religion and knowing how to use a Bible. In a Catholic school I go to mass often and that educates me by listening to the sermons that our priest teaches us. Being educated in my faith can help me preach the Word of God to non-Christians. Prepared and educated in my faith can help me stay on the path God wants me to be on.

A Catholic school encourages me to be in relationship with God, growing in faith people, and the environment embedded in faith. Being in a relationship with faithful people inspires me to be in a closer relationship with God. Communicating with people that have the same religion as me allows me to have a better understanding of my religion. Going to St. Andrew's lets me talk about my faith without judgement. The environment in a Catholic School is warm and loving, so it helps me be more trusting of my teachers. Attending St. Andrew's helps me build relationships with faithful people and the environment helps me be more loving to others. I believe that going to a Catholic School assists to grow my faith and be more Christian like. I am very lucky that I can go to St. Andrew's to help grow a better relationship with God.

by **Corbin Doyle**

I am so blessed to have the opportunity to go to a Catholic school as a Christian. My mom went here, too, and I am grateful to be graduating here next year. It has just overall helped keep me involved in the faith and parish. Going here has affected my faith in many ways such as being in a Christian environment, growing

my religious practices, learning through a Catholic education and participating in many group activities. I'll tell you how being in a religious environment has impacted my faith.

A large part of the impact on my faith is from the environment that comes from being in the Catholic school. Each time we eat we pray before and after lunch. Just being around other Christians helps. Being able to talk with other Christians on a daily basis about the faith is a surreal experience. We also partake in much prayer, for example whenever we do not have mass we make a prayer circle in the gym. But that's just one aspect of being in a Catholic school.

My practices are another way that being in a Catholic school has affected my faith. Every Wednesday and Friday we have mass led by Father Viviano. Every first Friday of the month we have adoration and benediction, and those are very special occasions to me. We also go to monthly reconciliation or confession also with Father Viviano. My practices in the church have helped me so much in my faith journey.

Education is one of the leading factors of the benefits of coming here. Ms. Heinen's religion class has impacted me probably the most. Through just even chatting about the faith Ms. Heinen has helped me. We also read scriptures, watch religious videos, and learn about saints. We will also be receiving the sacrament of confirmation with the help of Carla Knipp, and Ms. Heinen. My saint name will be Justin Martyr and my sponsor will be Marvin Twenter, my grandfather. Justin is an apologist and martyr who built schools in Rome, and is the patron saint of philosophers, lecturers and apologists. Marvin makes rosaries for people - he has handed out about 700 now. He is very active in his parish, goes to mass every Sunday, and Cursillo every Saturday evening. I have many ways to grow my faith through education.

I have a few group activities I participate in that help me in my faith. One of them is CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) where Karla and others help us play games, socialize with other Catholics, and eat snacks. Another activity is school families, we meet up every Tuesday morning to talk and play games in the gym. At most special occasions like Catholic schools week we pray the living rosary. We all gather in a circle and each one of us pray the corresponding prayer. We have a lot of activities to do together in order to improve our faith.

There are so many ways being in a Catholic school helps with your faith. These are only 10 reasons. I'm so lucky to be born into a Catholic family. Going to a Catholic school has been an amazing experience. My teachers and Father Viviano are great influences.

# What eighth graders say they will miss about St. Andrew's

St. Andrew School eighth graders wrote essays on what they will miss about St. Andrew School as their assignment for Catholic Schools Week. Their teacher is Julie Bailey.

## by Aaron Romo

As we all know, Catholic Schools Week is coming up and I am thrilled. Then I was hit with the harsh reality, this is my last year at St. Andrew School. I've been here for almost five years and it has been an exceptional experience. Not once have I ever thought that it would all end so soon. That begs the question, what will I miss most about St. Andrew?

Since this is a Catholic school I will definitely miss practicing my faith in school. Catholic Schools Week is coming up and I know everyone is excited. Last year my family won the dodgeball tournament undefeated and it's going to happen again. Religion class is a vital part of our Catholic education because daily lessons on the faith are absolutely necessary. School mass is another big thing for me and when I leave St. Andrew hopefully I'm still attending mass and confession regularly.

The activities here are fairly interesting, and even though we are in middle school we still get recess. I don't know why but I'm not complaining. Some of the more exciting activities include the ski trip and feast days. The ski trip is coming up and I can't wait. The only snag of the ski trip is waking up really early but it's worth it because last year we had a lot of fun and, if you want, you can sleep on the way there. The feast days are slightly more interesting and the reason for that is we are able to decide where we go for the trip and where we eat. Unfortunately, my last feast day was a couple of months ago but the memories I made will live on.

The environment here is very healthy. Our school is exceptionally small so we all know one another. We got to know the preschoolers because we have them as church partners and I enjoy it because we are able to help them in mass. We usually aren't around the younger students most of the time, so I appreciate it. I will definitely be missing all my friends since we will no longer be in the same school as I will be attending high school in California so I won't be able to see them every day. I will also miss Tipton, the only reason I am in Tipton everyday is because this is where I go to school. If I no longer attend St. Andrew I won't have a reason to be here every day.

These precious school years will

be missed but will never be forgotten. I have enjoyed each and every single moment. We still have half of the school year left so I suppose all I can do is make the most of it. I will undoubtedly miss St. Andrew School. Enjoy it while it lasts, because you never know when it will end.

## by Celeste Villagomez

I never thought I would have gone to St. Andrew School. I was confused and had no idea what to do when I got here. There is an abundance of what I have learned and experienced since. So much has happened over the years, including the pandemic and watching some of our classmates graduate. There are so many things I am going to miss once I graduate.

Religion is a massive part of my life, especially because I go to a Catholic school. I have learned so much about my faith from going to mass more often. Thanks to my religion teacher, I know more about Jesus and the Christian community. Although I will not be here next year, I will not forget everything I have learned about being an excellent Christian. I would have never learned any of this at a public school. I am going to miss having religion class and learning about God.

Another thing I am going to miss are the activities and field trips. Every year on our feast day, we take a class trip to an exciting place we pick. People also go to the literature festival by reading certain books. Grades seven and eight get to go on a ski trip every year, not to mention all the times we have gone to 5&50. We work hard, and when it comes to taking these trips, it feels like a reward we deserve. I am grateful our school willingly allows us to do stuff like this.

In my opinion, St. Andrew's offers an excellent education. When I see an assignment I passed, I feel proud because I know I have worked hard, pushed past my limits, and to my full potential. I think part of why so many students succeed from coming here is because of the small classes. One gets comfortable speaking up, working together, and most of all encouraging each other. We are also great because the teachers put in hard work and dedication so we can learn and be great students. The school families are also there to help us improve. The way they are set up, with kids from each grade level, helps them get along with other students outside of their class. This school has a very different learning environment than that of a public school.

Things will definitely change, but not everything will. I am still



## Preparing to leave

St. Andrew School eighth graders reflect on what they will miss about St. Andrew School after graduating at the end of this school year and moving on to high school. They are, from the left, Aaron Romo, Reid Hampton, Gordon Pettigrew, Celeste Villagomez, Aidan Walters and Kash Hentges.

going to practice my faith and go to church. I am going to work hard and help others. Those in the grades below me will work just as hard and stay strong in their faith. I will never forget what I have learned at Saint Andrew, rather, I will use that knowledge in the future. I am going to miss coming to this school everyday and I hope that students continue to succeed at Saint Andrew.

## by Aidan Walters

I will miss a great deal about St. Andrews. The years have been so fun and I have learned so much about my lord and savior, Jesus Christ. I have done so many activities in this amazing environment. Only a few months are left in my last year of school and I have so many memories. I am sure I will make more memories but it will not be the same.

In my 9 years at St. Andrew's I have done lots of activities. I will miss all the recesses I got to hang out with my friends. The recess allowed for a break from all of the homework (unless he/she had to stay in). I loved all the field trips we went on. For example, when we went to Skyzone, ice skating, bridal cave, and more. All of these activities all helped us have a lot of fun.

I shall really miss practicing my faith in school. We go to Mass every Wednesday and Friday. This

helps us stay on the path of God. We have religion classes everyday to learn our truth. The feast days each grade has helped us have fun learning and teaching others. We will not have these things in public school so I will miss them a ton.

What I will miss most of all is the food, friends and teachers. Mrs. Lisa makes the best food, whether it is ribs or hotdogs, it is all delicious. I have many younger friends who will not go to high school at the same time as me. These friends helped me get through school and I will be sad to leave them. I will miss having small classes because learning is more personal. The teachers are wonderful and really help me out but they will not be there in high school. St. Andrews' environment is great and I will miss it.

All of these I will miss greatly. This is my last year at St. Andrew's and it is really sad. I will soon go to high school and be without this. I will leave my friends and teachers behind. I will greatly miss being so close to Jesus. I look forward to high school but St. Andrew's will always be in my heart.

## by Reid Hampton

Since this is my last year at St. Andrew's I have been forced to reflect on my years attending this school. I have made many great and unforgettable memories throughout my time here. I have

grown in my faith, excelled in the environment, and done many activities all while attending St. Andrew's. The fact that my years at St. Andrew's are coming to an end is sad. I will be touching on what I will miss most about being a student here. This is what makes my school great.

I mentioned that I have grown in my faith in my years of attending a Catholic school. The last two years especially, thanks to Ms. Heinen. I will miss the fact I will not have a special class just to learn about God. Praying together is another aspect of attending a faith-based school that I will wholeheartedly miss. Praying with one another brings a sense of community that I won't have next year in high school. I hope that when we graduate we will take our Christian values with us and never stop praying. Being one in faith is an aspect of attending a Catholic School I'll miss.

I will deeply miss the close-knit environment of my Catholic school. This environment shaped me as a human being. It not only helped me academically, but also helped me build long lasting friendships and relationships. Our teachers truly care about our success in school and in life. This has pushed me to the best I can in ev-

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# What they will miss about St. Andrew's continued

Continued from previous page  
 erything I do. The friendships I have made during this time have led to some pretty fun times in school. Being friends with one another has made school all the more enjoyable.

St. Andrew's being so small has let us be able to do whole school activities. This has allowed us to build relationships with younger classmates. The dodgeball tournament for me will be greatly missed. This is one of the highlights of every year along with field day. Our all-school activities make all the hard work and learning worth it.

All in all, St. Andrew's has been a great experience for me. I look back and realize all the great connections I have made along the way. My years attending St. Andrew will soon come to an end, but I'm forever grateful for being able to be a student here. This school has made me who I am today. It shaped me as a Christian and led me closer to God, which is the most important part of life.

**by Kash Hentges**

Yesterday, I was in English class, when our teacher announced that we would be doing a project about our school. I was excited and unhappy at the same time. When I heard that, I came to the realization that my time here was fading. This school has been a major part of my life. In this essay, I will explain why this school has been a massive part of my life that I will miss.

Last year, I came back to this school, not holding high expectations, on how the school year would turn out. I ended up adapting to the school, realizing all the good things the school did, and will continually do. More recently, I realized how much I've evolved in my faith. In some sense, it was calming to sit down for an hour, two days a week, and listen to the word of God. When I came to St. Andrew's, I wasn't open to the thought of confession. I didn't like that thought that I had to tell a human all my faults and sins. When I got the explanation about what it really does for me, I found it a soothing place where I felt better afterward. If I didn't go to St. Andrew's, I would feel different about confession, probably for the rest of my life.

I really enjoyed other aspects of St. Andrew's, for example the activities. At St. Andrew's, basketball is one of the sports that you can participate in. Since it's a smaller team there wasn't much pressure to be the best. The team was like a family because everyone knows each other and enjoyed playing with each other. I'm definitely going to miss being able to start the basketball season early, and having a small team. One tradition that the school does is the dodge ball tournament. Each year during Catholic Schools Week, we get with our Family that the school assigns you each year, with about one to two kids from each grade in

your family. Basketball is one of my favorite sports, and I'm glad that I got the opportunity to play at St. Andrew's. I will miss competing each year against other schools in basketball, and my own friends in the dodgeball tournament.

I love how St. Andrew's has great food, ranging from ribs to chili dogs. One of the other things I realized is how much better St. Andrew's food is compared to other schools. I'm going to miss how St. Andrew's has small classes, where we are with each other so much of the time, we are practically family. Our school also promotes a program called AR. The program is about reading books and testing on them. The wonderful feature about this program is that we get pushed to be the best readers we can. I love that we are held to a higher standard in all of our classes, and the best is expected of us. In closing, the St. Andrew's school learning environment expects us to be our best, and excel academically.

To start my concluding paragraph I would like to say St. Andrew's has formed my faith into what it is today. Going to St. Andrew's has helped my faith tremendously, with religion classes and Church. I enjoy the fact that I get to wear a uniform. It's easier to get ready in the morning without picking out an outfit, and you can just grab it without putting any thought into it, and put it on. To sum up everything that I have stated in this

essay, I am really going to miss being here everyday, and will miss the small classes and expanding my faith.

**by Gordon Pettigrew**

St. Andrew School has created many memories for me over the past nine years. I have had great and terrible memories, but I will never forget the great ones. This school has had a huge impact on my daily life, and has made me strong in my faith. It has also taught me to be kinder to people around me. Being Catholic is a major part of my life and this school has taught me many things about my Catholic faith. There are many things I will miss when I leave, such as practicing my faith, certain activities, and the school's environment.

Practicing my faith is something that I will miss very much because it guides me to be a better person. First I will miss going to confession in school because I will have to do it by myself and be independent. I will not have religion class either, to remind me of God's grace and how he gave up his only son for us. Feast days are a yearly celebration of a saint, after the mass we get breakfast and then go to any place we want for the whole day. I will miss practicing faith at my School because I do not know school without it.

Activities are something that I will miss because they won't be the same anywhere else. Next year me



and my friends will have different classes and we will not have recess, so I will miss recess a bunch. Another thing I will miss is the ski trip because I get to get out of school and get to hang out with my friends. The dodgeball tournament is a competitive day every year, where each team plays in a bracket and it is very fun. Activities are pretty fun and I will miss them because they won't be the same.

The environment is important at our school because we're surrounded by God. I will miss the teachers because they help as much as they can to see you succeed. Small classes are things I will miss the most because everyone knows each other and are friends. The last environmental item I will miss is the food - the food at St. Andrew School is amazing. I will miss it very much. The environment next year will not be the same.

Catholic Schools help your faith but they also have a bunch of academics involved. This School has shaped me over the past nine years faithfully and academically. It has helped me grow into a better person and a better student. They help you not only meet your goal but also exceed it. My favorite teaching from this school was anywhere you go do not take it for granted because God is watching your every move. I am sure I will make many memories throughout the next four years, but I will never forget these nine at St. Andrew School.

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