



St. Hilary School: *Faith Makes the Difference*

Shared Values

Today's world is filled with cultural norms and values that often do not align with what parents intend to practice and teach at home. Increasingly, children are exposed to aspects of society that threaten to undermine how they are raised. It is vital that what is instilled at home be reinforced in other positive and concrete ways in order for children to truly thrive in spite of the siege on family values. One of the most important factors in a child's life is his or her school setting. At St. Hilary School, in addition to a tradition of academic excellence spanning more than 60 years, faith makes the difference in ensuring that what is important at home is also emphasized throughout a child's school life. Acting in partnership with parents, the school provides a continuum of faith-based principles from the moment a child leaves home in the morning until he or she returns home in the evening.

Beginning with the Basics

Starting in kindergarten, St. Hilary School students learn that faith is at the heart of the fabric from which the school is woven. Prayer is part of each school day, several times a day, and living as Jesus by being kind and developing good moral character is as natural for students as learning their academic subjects. St. Hilary School is grounded in Catholic teachings, but openly embraces students of all faiths whose parents desire that a faith-based education be part of their formation. Learning to live as Jesus means answering to a higher call, with the understanding that each person is created in the image of God and the expectation that each person be treated with human dignity.

Pictured at right: This prayer chain created by St. Hilary School students and staff for a seriously ill staff member was blessed by Fr. Steve during a school Mass. It is just one example of the many ways the school community cares for and supports one another during times of need.



St. Hilary School students participate in weekly school Masses, with students ministering in a variety of roles. A faith-based theme for the school year connects to the closing prayer and song prayed and sung by the school community.

Putting Faith into Practice

On a daily basis, faith is simply a visible and tangible part of the school environment. On a deeper level, though, faith translates into a host of larger-scale practices that bring the St. Hilary School experience full circle. Students participate in weekly school Masses, with each grade level having multiple opportunities throughout the year to plan and participate. Students can also participate in school Masses by being altar servers, singing in the choir, or playing an instrument. A faith-based theme guides students and staff through each school year, and that theme comes alive each week at school Mass as students and staff pray and sing a special closing prayer and song connected to the theme. This school year's theme is "You are Beloved: Be Love!", encouraging students to realize their own God-given worth and that of others.



Caring for Others

Caring for others begins with such simple things as the school's buddy program, which pairs older students with younger ones to interact throughout the school year and sit together at school Masses. The school community provides support for one another during times of need through prayer, meals, and more. Students make cards, spiritual bouquets, blessing jars, and prayer chains to lift up those in need of special care. Expanding the circle of caring, students have the opportunity to participate in an array of service projects throughout the school year that benefit those in need.

Pictured at left: Students participate in one of St. Hilary School's many service projects. Here, students sort donations of toiletry items to assist those supported by the parish's social outreach ministry.

Taking Faith to the Next Level

Faith is taken to the next level regularly at St. Hilary School. It is common for entire classes to visit the Church on Wednesdays for Adoration. This moving experience provides students with spiritual nourishment beyond what is already available on a daily basis. Students also participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation with their classes during Advent and Lent. Lent offers many special services through which students can deepen their faith. For example, seventh graders lead Stations of the Cross each spring, and eighth graders annually present a portrayal of the Mime of the Passion that is a highlight of Holy Week. Several times during the school year, special prayer services or Rosary services are held, offering the entire school community the chance to come together in prayer. The school's Rosary Club has been instrumental in helping to plan Rosary services, as well as in praying the Rosary and making Rosaries for others. Third graders annually research saints and come to school in costume to process in for the school's All Saints Day Mass.



St. Hilary School third graders annually research saints and dress in costume for the processional at the school's All Saints Day Mass. Following Mass, the students present a series of clues and try to stump St. Hilary priests and principals as to their identity.

Preparation for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion for second graders as well as Confirmation for eighth graders takes center stage during those important school years. While retreats have always been part of sacramental preparation for students, this year, St. Hilary School incorporated three-day retreats at the Damascus Catholic Mission Campus near Columbus into the curriculum for sixth, seventh and eighth graders. Also new this year, connecting school and home in the mission to instill shared values, are traveling family prayer boxes that contain a Catholic statue, four rosaries, and suggestions for creating a dedicated prayer space in the home. These boxes are sent home with a different student each week to help foster the domestic church in each student's home.

Explore the School

For more than six decades, faith has made the difference in the education offered at St. Hilary School, making the school the perfect choice for thousands of families and setting the stage for faith-filled lives that endure into adulthood.

Annually, 98% of graduating eighth graders continue their education at one of the area's Catholic high schools. If you would like your child and your family to experience the benefits of a St. Hilary School education, now is the ideal time to begin exploring all that the school has to offer. **The school will host its popular Kindergarten Kaleidoscope program for prospective 2023-2024 kindergarteners and their parents on January 12, 2023 from 9-11 am. RSVP by December 29, 2022 to attend.** An Open House on January 29, 2023 from 12-2 pm is open to all. Stop by to tour the school, visit classrooms and meet teachers. New Student Registration for 2023-2024 will begin online at www.st-hilaryschool.org on January 30, 2023. For more information or to RSVP for Kindergarten Kaleidoscope, please contact Debbie Sinopoli, Director of Marketing & Admissions, at 330-867-8720, ext. 343 or dsinopoli@st-hilary.org.