

## **FROM FR. MARK**

As we have just finished this week of Catholic Schools week, I believe in the importance of the church's role in the formation of our children regardless of our contact through our PSR programs and our school. It is the parish's role to provide an education that goes beyond the STEM core subject of the classroom. Be it in our PSR programs or the school, we teach each child how to be a good person; we teach integrity and provide them with a moral compass to make good decisions. In the younger grades, we teach them that having manners and being courteous is important

Considering where I am right now, I may be preaching to the choir here, but Faith Matters. This is the most important aspect of our PSR programs and school. It was not long ago that a proud mother showed me a video of her 4-year-old daughter singing the Holy, Holy from mass. Mom is recorded, asking her daughter where she learned the song and the response was: "From Fr. Mark."

I often speak of forming the foundations of a child and faith is where it stems from. To me, the bottom line is that: Faith is the cornerstone of life.

Without it, personal successes and achievements have little relevance. With it, you realize that your successes and achievements are not only for you, but should be shared with others; with your family, friends, teachers, homeless, and homebound, just as Jesus taught us. We teach this type of stewardship in every grade.

I take the role of faith formation very seriously. Parents, no matter where you are with your own faith, the opportunity to give your child the cornerstone they need for life is one that should not be passed up.

Overall, we prepare our children very well to face all the challenges that will come their way in the future. I realize that taking the time to drive your children to attend PSR, making sacrifices of time and treasure to provide a Catholic education is a sacrifice. However, your child will establish a foundation of moral structure and develop integrity that cannot always be achieved in any other way. Your sacrifice should be looked at as an investment in your child. It is an investment that is not only well worth it, but one that will last a lifetime.

And let me be clear, I am committed to providing solid faith formation to every child at St. Joseph-Olney, Holy Cross-Wendelin and St. Joseph-Stringtown. Though we are concluding Catholic School Week, let us continue celebrating our Catholic faith and what is most important to us: a faith-filled, successful child. .