

***Spiritual and Ethical Practices for Students in Grades 4K - 2<sup>nd</sup>  
who attend Saint Mary's School***

To: Parents of students in 4K, Kindergarten, First and Second grades  
From: Father Joseph Diermeier

You have chosen Saint Mary's School for the first years of your child's formal education. Thank you for making this choice. The teachers and staff at Saint Mary's School will try to provide a quality education and a Catholic Christian environment for your child.

The seeds of faith are beginning in children of this age. Along with the personnel at Saint Mary's School, I ask that parents do their part to water the seeds of faith on a consistent basis. Therefore, I place the following practices before you for your consideration and cooperation.

**Spiritual**

1. Children at this age are learning to pray – sometimes with memorized prayers and sometimes with prayer from the heart. I hope that you will reinforce prayer time with your child (e.g., meal prayers, night prayers, etc.).
2. The children will be learning about the Ten Commandments and how not observing the Commandments is a sin. Please reinforce the practice of the Commandments as you instruct your child. Also, as the children advance toward their First Holy Communion in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, there should be a greater awareness of attending the Holy Mass every Sunday and on the holy days of obligation.

**Ethical**

1. One of the best lessons for young children is for them to be grateful for the many things that come their way. Rather than your child taking things for granted, reinforce the practice of saying “please” and “thank you.”
2. Respect for elders is a common courtesy. Remind them to greet the faculty and staff. Ask them at the end of the school day if they have done this.

Observing these several points will add to the overall effectiveness of what we try to give to each child who attends Saint Mary's School. God bless you.