

# Our Lady of Lourdes- Bearcat Blast

APRIL 11, 2025

**From Fr. David**

Dear families,

At the heart of every Catholic parish is the Catholic Church — the sacred space where the faithful gather to worship, pray, and partake in the sacraments. The church is where people are baptized into the faith, receive the Eucharist, are married, and are commended to God at life's end. It is also a place for spiritual growth, reconciliation, and ministries that serve the needs of the community. The church building may be the most visible sign of a parish's presence, but its true essence lies in the people who come together in faith.

A Catholic school is not a separate entity from the parish; it is a core and dynamic ministry of the parish itself. While it serves a diverse community of students, including those who may not be Catholic or belong to the parish, its foundation and identity remain rooted in the faith and mission of the parish. The school exists to provide a faith-based education, reinforcing the values, teachings, and traditions of the Catholic Church. It operates under the authority of the parish, benefiting from its spiritual guidance, resources, and communal support.

## **PLEASE REMEMBER**

One of the most important distinctions to emphasize is that the Catholic school and Catholic Church are not independent entities operating within the parish's boundaries; they are intrinsic parts of the parish's mission. The misconception that the school functions separately from the parish can lead to misunderstandings regarding governance, finances, and identity.

All resources—spiritual, financial, and communal—ultimately belong to the parish, ensuring that the church and school exist together in harmony. Just as a parish cannot exist without a place for worship, it must also invest in the education and formation of its youth. The parish, therefore, serves as the foundation that sustains both the Church and the school, fostering a cohesive Catholic identity.

Paz,

*Fr. David Sánchez*