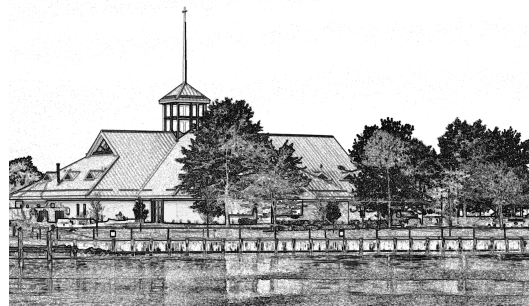


## Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church

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July 29, 2019

Dear Our Lady Star of the Sea School and Parish Community,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well. As pastor of Our Lady Star of the Sea parish, I feel it is very important always to keep you informed as we work together to provide our children with the best education possible.

It is with a heavy heart that I am writing to you to announce the departure of our principal, Mrs. Mary Bartsch. Mrs. Bartsch has led our school, teachers, staff, and children through three productive and wonderful years. She leaves Our Lady Star of the Sea School to take on the role of Assistant Superintendent for the Diocese of Phoenix Catholic Schools. Our loss is definitely their gain.

During her time as principal of Our Lady Star of the Sea School, Principal Bartsch has worked hard to improve our school and broaden the learning opportunities for our schoolchildren. During the past three years, our National Junior Honor Society has been re-accredited; a Bay Studies program was started; for the first time ever our Robotics program went to the state finals where they finished second; our Scantron scores improved; FROG It (Fully Relying On God) program was created; the types and quality of our service projects improved; and, 85 Acts of Kindness behavior formation began. As you can tell Mrs. Bartsch's leadership and dedication have blessed our school. I, as I know you all will, wish Mrs. Bartsch God's blessings as she embarks on this new chapter in her life.

I have decided, with the support of our superintendent, Mr. Bill Ryan, to select an interim principal for the 2019-20 school year. A principal search will take place this winter where we will advertise for the permanent position beginning in January 2020. I am currently working with the Catholic School's Office to review candidates for the interim principal position. I hope to announce the interim principal very soon. I thank you in advance for your patience and ask for your prayers to the Holy Spirit that he leads us with his grace through this next chapter of our beloved school. If you have, any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me. May God's blessings be with you and our school family.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Kenneth J. Gill  
Pastor