

## Questions and Answers about Preschool

Why does preschool get out earlier than the rest of the students at St. Lawrence School?

May is a very busy time of year here at St. Lawrence School. There is the Sacrament of First Communion, Kindergarten graduations, Eighth Grade graduations, and preschool graduations. All of these big events require use of the church for practices. So, we stagger these events so that everyone has ample opportunities and times to practice. Since I have a morning and afternoon classes of preschool children, we use the church every day of school- two times a day—That is time that others cannot practice in the church. Their events are equally important.

I make a “big deal” out of preschool graduation. If any of you reading this have had children go through my program, you know what a wonderful evening it is. We are bringing these beautiful angels, all dressed in white, to God’s house to celebrate their accomplishments. There are songs, poems, certificates, a slide show, and refreshments.

But, in addition to all of that, there are other very important reasons why I have the graduation in the Church. First of all, it is an excellent lesson in following directions-which prepares them for not just the “big” day of graduation, but for life itself. It makes the connection between home, church and school. It helps the children develop a sense of confidence and pride in all of their hard work. This will help them to continue striving to be their best because it means so much to their families, their friends, themselves, and God. Also, it helps the children know that something is ending in their lives. Four year old children have difficulty separating themselves from me after having been in my program for two years. They keep thinking that I will be their teacher in Kindergarten also. We need to have a big, happy ending with family and Church support for new beginnings. I moved the graduation from the classroom to the Church for this reason.

I could add a few days to the end of the school year and forego the Church experience. We could have just an end of the year “celebration”, but I feel that the lessons learned through the Church experience are so much greater than I could ever teach in my classroom for a couple of extra days.