

Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic School

**105 East Washington Avenue
Ladysmith, Wisconsin 54848**

Grades Kindergarten – Eight

Phone: 715-532-3232

Principal: Mrs. Tami Stewart

Pastor: Rev. James Bartelme

Mission Statement:

The Our Lady of Sorrows School staff, in partnership with parents and community members, will encourage lifelong learning by providing a Catholic Christian environment where children can develop academically, socially, physically, and spiritually with God.

Philosophies and Objectives

As a Catholic Christian School, the parents, staff and students live according to a set of beliefs established by Christ Jesus, our head, and expressed more specifically by His Church. The following is a statement of the philosophies and objectives as established by Our Lady of Sorrows School:

1. To bring the child to an understanding of him/herself as a unique individual created by God.
2. To give each child love, respect and recognition which will encourage growth in body, mind, personality and spirit.
3. To help students integrate religious truth and moral values in everyday living.
4. To help the child become more knowledgeable of the mystery of salvation by studying our faith, tradition and scripture.
5. To promote joy and desire to worship God through the liturgy.
6. To build in the child a mature sense of responsibility regarding social issues.
7. To prepare the student to meet the academic demands of becoming lifelong learners.
8. To help the child recognize his/her potential and capabilities.
9. To foster unity among school members, parents and community members.

School Statistics

In 2006-2007, Our Lady of Sorrows served 103 children from 67 families through their Home and School Association and Committee of Education.

Along with Our Lady of Sorrows Parish: St. Anthony, Tony; St. Mary, Hawkins; St. Peter, Winter; St. Michaela, Jump River; and St. John, Sheldon have students attending the school.

Our Lady of Sorrows is accredited through WRISA (Wisconsin Religious and Independent Schools Accreditation). It is also a member of NCEA (National Catholic Education Association).

Our Lady of Sorrows uses E-rate funds to support their technology program. This program provides internet access for the school and helps to keep the technology plan up to date.

School History

The Servite Friars took over the administration of the St. Mary's Parish in Ladysmith in 1910 and saw a need for a parochial school. Plans for the school were formulated in the spring of 1912 and on St. Patrick's Day a benefit was held to raise funds for the proposed building. Ground breaking for the new building was held on April 18, 1912 followed by an intensive search for personnel to staff the school. Finally, a young Servite priest, Fatehr Boniface Efferenn, organized a branch of Servite Sisters from Illinois and they arrived in Ladysmith on September 19, 1912.

The Sisters began at once to enroll children in the new school and to gather books and materials. St. Mary's school opened on October 10, 1912 with 96 pupils in grades one through eight. During the second year at St. Mary's, it was announced that non-Catholic students were also welcome. When school opened in the fall of 1914, grades one through eight were represented along with the first and second years of high school. The first students to graduate from St. Mary's School received their diplomas on June 16, 1916. By the fall of 1917, school enrollment had increased to 150 pupils in grades one through twelve. Athletics were an important part of the school activities as well. They boys' basketball team was very good in 1922 to 1925 and the girls' basketball team was also well known.

The first lay teacher at St. Mary's School was Mary Durkin who taught a course in music and elocution beginning in 1916. The high school was re-opened to the public in 1932 and was know as Our Lady of Sorrows High School. In 1959, a new building was erected and the school became Servite High. The facility was closed in 1967 and the building became the Fine Arts Center for Mount Senario College.

The Servite priest, who served the parish from 1910, left in 1955 with the diocesan clergy taking over the responsibility of the parish and the school. In September of 1956, plans were made for a new school building which was completed with the opening of school on September 19, 1957. That was the same year the parish began using the name Our Lady of Sorrows. In later years, lay teachers were again added to the staff beginning in 1956.

Enrollment History

1912 – 96 (Grades 1-8)	1987 – 156 (PK-8)	1999 – 115	
1917 – 150 (Grades 1-12)	1988 – 144	2000 – 105	
1978 – 142	1989 – 138	2001 – 107	
1979 – 161	1990 – 140	2002 – 113	
1980 – 179	1991 – 126	2003 – 105	
1981 – 174	1992 – 111 (K-8)	2004 – 121	
1982 – 157	1993 - 110	2005 – 121	
1983 – 168	1994 – 133	2006 – 103	
1984 – 170	1995 – 136		
1985 – 174	1997 – 133		
1986 – 155	1998 - 133		