



On April 8, 1956, Bishop Michael Ready laid the cornerstone. In September, the school opened with 145 students enrolled in grades 1-4 in the new building. The building consisted of the church (with one classroom at the back of the church with one glass wall so it could be used as the crying room on Sundays and a fourth grade classroom during the week), the Parish Office (what is now the school secretary's office), three classrooms on the lower level (now numbered 103, 104, and 105), and a Social Hall/Cafeteria (now rooms 111 and 112). There was a pass-through window located in the hallway next to Room 111 which was used by mothers to pass milk and hot dog lunches through this window.

The students attended Mass every day and learned some of their prayers in Latin. The altar boys were third and fourth graders because they were the school's oldest students. These young boys were required to memorize several prayers and responses in Latin in order to fulfill their serving obligations. Sisters Rose, Marie Blanche, and Marcia led the Boy's Choir. Annual May Crownings were celebrated events. First Fridays of the month were special for the students not only because they received Communion, but because they were treated to Krispy Kreme donuts after Mass in their classrooms.

The girls wore navy blue jumpers, knee socks, white blouses with ribbon ties and were required to wear beanies to church. The boys wore a navy tie, light blue dress shirt, navy slacks and dress shoes.

Discipline was handled with a firm but loving hand, or paddle in some cases. There are stories of a famous paddle called "McDuff" that was carried around by the second principal, Sister Jean Burke. It was rarely used but left few students willing to cross the line into risky behavior.