

## **Olivia Radecki- St. Clement School- Roger Bacon High School**

As a Catholic eighth grader, who has attended Catholic grade school since Kindergarten, I have learned to use my God given gifts to help others in my family, school and church community. I look for opportunities to try to give back and leave my mark on the people around me. I understand the importance of helping others and sharing my abilities. By setting a good example, I hope others will be inspired to share a part of themselves in order to make the world a better place!

Volunteering for school events is very important to me. This year and last, I have been a school ambassador. As an ambassador, at open house, I help people looking at St. Clement as a potential school for their children by giving tours. Another volunteer opportunity that I participate in is the setup and cleanup for the Veteran's Day Program. Also, I volunteered for my school spaghetti dinner this upcoming week. For my school festival, I worked running the prize booth, as well as set up booths and take them down afterwards. I am reliable and a great help to my teachers and classmates. It is very important that school events run smoothly, and I am glad that I can show my appreciation for my school by helping at events. Volunteering is a great way to give back to my school community and leave a positive impression on the St. Clement family.

Supporting those in my faith community at St. Clement Church means a lot to me. I am a member of the St. Clement School Franciscan group. The Friendly Franciscans Club learns about St. Francis and how to use his example in our daily life. One project I participated in was bagging birdseed for Christmas Masses that would be given to the parishioners as a gift. Passing out the birdseed after Mass on Christmas Eve, I was able to meet other parishioners, see their appreciation for our club's hard work and share what I have been learning at our club meetings. Hopefully, everyone fed the birds on Christmas Day like St. Francis.

Another way I make a difference in my parish is by participating during Mass. I am a sacristan, meaning I set up the church before Mass and I help wash and put away chalices and patens afterwards. I do this every other week at school masses. I am an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist as well. I give the Body and Blood of Jesus to my fellow Catholics. Finally, I am a member of my school's choir. Singing during school masses is another gift that I share with those in my community. The Eucharist and Mass are some of the most important parts of my faith, and I am lucky to participate during Mass with those in my church community.

Finally, I enjoy sharing my gift of dance to the those around me. Since second grade, I have taken ballet and tap dance classes. I love to perform and bring happiness to the people around me! Performing a story and seeing the audience's joy is always a special experience.

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I am proud of all I have done to help my community and wish to continue working to make a difference throughout high school. Helping others in my school and parish is definitely worthwhile. I would like to pick up new responsibilities in the future and am excited to see what new opportunities come up for me at Roger Bacon!