

SAINT CLARE PARISH PROFILE

CARLIE HENDRICKS



Carlie Hendricks will be a sophomore at Concordia University in Mequon this fall majoring in occupational therapy.

Yet as she plans for her future, Carlie fondly recalls the strong religious and educational foundation she received while growing up in what is now St. Clare Parish.

Carlie, 19, was baptized at St. Paul Church in Wrightstown — as were her younger siblings Mason, Carissa and Isaac — and she received First Communion and Confirmation there as well. She also frequently attended parish picnics and other events.

“Our family went to church regularly,” said Carlie, whose parents are Mike and Amy Hendricks of Greenleaf. “I don’t remember ever not going to church. Sunday morning was our thing. We always went to St. Paul Church for Mass.”

Carlie attended St. Clare Catholic School (previously called St. Paul School) from preschool

through her eighth-grade graduation in 2015.

“I really liked going to St. Clare school,” she said. “We had smaller class sizes, so I got to know all my classmates really well. There were seven total kids in my graduating class, and I’m still pretty good friends with all of them.

“I liked all of my classes at St. Clare, especially religion class. And I really enjoyed that we had some mixed classes, so in eighth grade we had reading buddies with young students. Even now if we see our reading buddies they still say hi.”

In the summer of 2015, Carlie joined her entire eighth-grade graduating class for the first of four Steubenville Youth Conference trips.

“It was really cool to see other kids my age who were so into their faith and had this love for the Lord,” Carlie said. “Going to St. Clare, I knew how important my faith was to me. But I only saw the other kids in my school on a regular basis. So seeing thousands was so cool.”

The following summer, after her freshman year at Wrightstown High School, she embarked on another Steubenville trip and returned even more energized.

“We all came back and said, ‘All these other kids in the diocese have youth groups, maybe we should too.’ So five or six of us met with Fr. Brian (Wideman) and we started a St. Clare Youth Group,” Carlie said.

The group gathered twice per month, holding Monday night adorations and convening in the basement of the school for games, movies, snacks and discussions about their Catholic faith. On some nights, more than a dozen students participated.

“It was a lot of fun to have that conversation and friendship about Jesus and our faith,” said Carlie, noting it was hard work to organize activities. “We had other kids come, and we made an Instagram page for it.

“Looking back on it, the friendships, the close bonds we formed ... even though they were friends I graduated with from St. Clare — forming those bonds over adoration and good friendship is really cool to think about.”

Carlie graduated in 2019 from Wrightstown High School, where she excelled academically while playing basketball, soccer and volleyball. Now, while attending classes at Concordia University, she goes to Lumen Christi parish in Mequon. She appreciates sharing her Catholic faith with parishioners there, but she noted her heart is at St. Clare Parish.

“It’s an older population at Lumen Christi,” Carlie said. “I like going to Mass here at St. Clare because we have more families and little kids. I think back to when I was little and there were babies crying in church — it doesn’t bother me at all. I like being at a church in a rural community, because pretty much everyone knows everyone.”

During her free time, Carlie enjoys spending time with family and friends, rollerblading, bicycling, swimming, skiing and going outdoors.

Her favorite saint is St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, her Confirmation saint.

“I think it’s so cool how she was able to humble herself to everyone she met and show them God’s love,” Carlie said. “In today’s day and age there’s a lot of hatred and throwing people to the side, but we’re all children of God. We can all spread that message.”