

# 1949 — A Permanent Kindergarten Is Established

Below is an excerpt from the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Saint James Church.

In 1949 the first Kindergarten class began in St. James School. The Kindergarten was first located in the white house behind the convent that was once occupied by Villa Maria Academy. Later Kindergarten classes were held in the Primary wing of the school when it was completed in 1955.



THE FIRST KINDERGARTEN GRADUATING CLASS IN 1950



MRS. MARY CLARKE (KINDERGARTEN) AND MRS. MARY DELANEY (FIRST GRADE), RETIRED TEACHERS FOR WHOM THE CLARKE-DELANEY TEACHER FUND IS NAMED.



Mrs. Mary Jessel Clarke is most remembered as one of St. James School's beloved Kindergarten teachers (1970-2009). After retiring from teaching, Mrs. Clarke stayed at St. James as a counselor in the Extended Day program. Before teaching, Mrs. Clarke was a St. James School student (Class of 1952) and, together with her husband, Jim, were school parents while their sons were in attendance at St. James.

MRS. MARY JESSEL CLARKE, 8TH GRADE SCHOOL PHOTO

Mary Jessel Clarke and life-long parishioner **Jeanne McCauley Trott** were both in the St. James Class of 1952. In



EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATION CLASS OF 1952 WITH 72 STUDENTS

1944 Mary and Jeanne began 1st grade in the original 1905 three-classroom school. The next year the new two-classroom building, built from gifts Father Mullarkey received on his Silver Jubilee, was completed and Mary and Jeanne attended 2nd grade in one of these new classrooms. Each following year, Mary and Jeanne attended school in a new classroom as construction continued on the current school building. This large 8th grade graduation class of 72 students was the last class to go through St. James School attending each grade together in a single classroom. This was also the last class to graduate that was not required to wear a school uniform.