

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.”

Romans 12:12

My journey with Christianity started at a very early age. My parents and grandparents taught me to pray every night for the things I am grateful for and things I desire. I attended Christian school from the time I was in preschool until third grade when we moved to Lake Forest. Knowing and speaking to Jesus on a daily basis is something that has been ingrained in me and that I am very thankful for. You see, I have three little brothers and they can be a lot. They cry, fight, and demand a lot of attention from my parents. I also am heavily involved in dance. I have been attending Lo Mastro 5-6 night per week for many years, taking ballet, tap, jazz, hip hop, acro, contemporary, and I am currently on the Lake Forest High School Junior Varsity POMS Team, so it is a lot of work and requires a lot of dedication. Praying to God each night is something that keeps me grounded.

As Christians, I think it is important to not only participate in church and activities but really to keep a deep personal relationship with God. I know that being able to attend Holy Communion gives me a sense of peace. I love hearing the sermons and have enjoyed watching the You Tube Channel for St James throughout the pandemic (plus it's helped my parents not have to deal with my brothers in church).

What's sometimes tough for me as a freshman is dealing with peer pressure and the general attitude of people that are not as strong in their faith. The best way I have found to approach them is to lead by example, keep praying and show my character through my actions. I think as Christians, we can often support one another in our walk with God more quietly than loudly. I try to do this by watching for situations in which someone is struggling and offering a reassuring smile or soft words of reassurance. One of my favorite Bible verses is Romans 12:12 which says, "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.”

Bella Lorene Bosau