

## FROM AN OLGCS SCHOOL ALUMNA: WAIOLI SHANNON



**O**ur Lady of Good Counsel School (OLGCS) instilled in me the importance of having a Catholic education, believing in faith, completing the sacraments, and maintaining everlasting friendships. I attended OLGCS from kindergarten to sixth grade and I loved starting each day with prayer. My faith in God developed through my education and I am blessed for all the teachers, Sisters, and Priests who built a strong Catholic foundation at OLGCS.

I always looked forward to Religion class and attending mass with the entire OLGCS School. From these experiences I was able to learn more about God and how much God loves each and every one of us. I also remember receiving the Eucharist for the first time. The Holy Communion ceremony at OLGCS was very special to me since my mother and grandmother were my biggest supporters along with my classmates and teachers.

Another special moment at OLGCS was learning how to pray the rosary and how to dedicate the mysteries to others in need of prayers. I also received the Sacrament of Reconciliation and also the first moment I asked for forgiveness at OLGCS Church was very memorable because I remember being freed from sin and experienced my journey to freedom at a young age.

I am currently enrolled in the RCIA program for Confirmation at OLGCS. I am excited to receive this important sacrament. I am so blessed to have my fiancée, Brandon Elefante, serve as my sponsor. We attend Sunday Mass at OLGCS and pray once a week at the Adoration Chapel. We are able to build our faith together and feel closer to God each day. We hope to join the ministry and spread our faith with Our Lady of Counsel Church.

I met my best friends in Kindergarten at OLGCS: Nicole (Enos) Racca, Chantelle (Enos) Luarca, Lindsey Richards, and Katrina (Rivera) Winner; and our faith in God and our Catholic upbringings led us to keep our friendships strong to this day.

I am forever thankful and blessed for all OLGCS has done for me with the teachings of sacraments and welcoming me back into the Catholic Church and faith.