



Christ Church Detroit  
Senior Speech on Mother's Day - Olivia Benbow  
The Sixth Sunday of Easter  
May 9, 2021

Hey, Christ Church!

For those who don't know me, my name is Olivia, and I am a high school senior and I'll be going to Northern Michigan this upcoming fall.

And for those of you who do, you probably met me either as a small baby or a teenager.

So, one of my first memories of Christ Church...I had a cup of coffee and I was walking to go annoy my mother in the Sacristy. And I didn't even make it out of Ledyard Hall before I spilled the coffee all over me. And I remember several people immediately there to make sure I was okay, going and getting my Mom, comforting me.

That was one of the times I knew that Christ Church was...my happy place...my safe place.

Another time was when I was having a *bad day*...a *really* bad day. And someone just could tell. And they just sat next to me and asked me how I was.

That meant a *lot* to me! That meant a lot.

And I feel like everyone talks about the fun times. And there were so many fun times from the Easter Egg Hunt to trying to fold the palms into crosses (it is an art I have never mastered) to the Advent by Candlelight and setting up tables and all that fun and singing "*My Favorite Things*". And Bible Trivia...that one was really, really fun!

But...with this pandemic I have had so much time...and being away from Christ Church has made me see all the amazing things that I will so *desperately* miss.

I'll miss passing the peace and talking with everyone.

I will miss crucifering and feeling like I am doing something for the church that has given me so much.

I don't have a way with words...I really don't.

But if there is one thing I can say, it is that Christ Church *means so much* to me and that everyone there means *so much* to me.

My Sunday School leaders are amazing...every single one of them I have ever had.

I learned to love and appreciate music.

I have learned to sit and listen and think and have discussions — not even just about faith — but about everything.

I have learned so many skills.

I have learned compassion and kindness and giving back.

I have learned that there's *no* time to be mean. There is *no* time to have hatred in your heart.

**Christ Church Detroit**  
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I don't think I'll ever find a church like this...ever.

It's only one and it's at Christ Church, and there is so much love.

All I can really say is:

*"Thank you for practically helping my parents to raise me by helping me be who I am, and..."*

*"Thank you. Just thank you."*