

Hello- My name is Susan Falkner. I've been a parishioner at St. Mary's for 22 years and it seems like just yesterday that we were bringing our young family to St. Mary's Church.

Like most of us here today, year after year we have grown deeper in our faith and without exception, I have too. Joining the Women's Guild as a new mother provided me with faith-filled, likeminded women, Bible studies gave me different views on Faith and getting involved in the church community is always uplifting in so many ways, but when personal issues arise, prayer and reading GOD's word is what I draw upon.

I decided to share a quick story with you today of how GOD showed me there are "Witnessing to our Faith in Christ" moments all around us.

Every day I take a walk in the woods with my dog, Chloe before I get ready for work. I usually go unless it is raining, but sunshine or snow shoeing I am there. This is my quiet time for prayer. Sometimes my tears flow and sometimes I give a loud scream in frustration, but I think GOD hears me.

I was having a rough time with my marketing business, getting kicked down so often, but I would always pray to ask for guidance, pick myself up, dust myself off and try again. I experienced this – beat-down so often in a year that I was getting frustrated that my prayers were not being heard. I kept thinking- Come on, something has to give. I was so angry after the last attempt, that I decided that prayer was useless, it doesn't work, what was I thinking that our prayers are heard? Yeah, yeah, GOD provides you with what you need.

I stopped praying in the woods. I was angry and was so beat-down that I questioned everything in my Catholic faith. Then one day I decided to ask for a sign. My head was down and when I looked up to look for the dog, I saw a beam of light shining so bright on a tree whose branch had fallen to become a cross. I just stood there in awe. Enough said right? Drop the mike.... I got my sign that day and so much more.

I realized again Christ is always with us and all we have to do is look around and be open to the signs he gives us. Yes, we don't always get what we ask for, I'm living proof, but signs are to let us know we are not alone and if we can surrender our self to him, good things will always happen.