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Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish exists to nurture a faith-filled Catholic community, which inspires and empowers all people to follow Jesus Christ. We will continue to "Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus" *Hebrews 12:2* by living the Gospel, celebrating meaningful worship, and calling one another to prayer, Christian service, and fellowship.

Jesus is Risen!

"The happy news of the Resurrection should shine on our faces, in our feelings and attitudes, in the way we treat others. We proclaim the resurrection of Christ when his light illuminates the dark moments of our life and we can share that with others: when we know how to smile with those who smile and weep with those who weep; when we walk beside those who are sad and in danger of losing hope; when we recount our experience of faith with those who are searching for meaning and for happiness. With our attitude, with our witness, with our life, we say: Jesus is risen! Let us say it with all our soul."

Pope Francis
Regina Caeli
April 6, 2015



Baptism and Christian Initiation at Easter

By Fr. Eric Johnson, Pastor



As a parish community we are greatly blessed to be welcoming sixteen new catechumens and candidates into full communion with us in our Catholic faith. Of these, ten will be baptized, entering into the water of rebirth and raised to a new life in Christ. It is a testament to the faith as it is witnessed to here at Our Lady and to the movements of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of these faithful. For them it is a time of joy, the culmination of a journey that has led them to the font. It is joyful for me as well, a reason for hope and a reminder of my own call to commitment in faith.

The whole Lent and Easter cycle finds its origins in this movement to baptism and the initiation of new members into the life of the Church. In the Church's earliest days the only Christian feast was that of Sunday. Every Sunday is a celebration of the Paschal Mystery and a memorial to the resurrection. But with the development of the catechumenate and a process of preparation for Christian initiation, a more focused and expanded observance of the passion, death and resurrection of our Lord at Easter became more and more common. Lent started as a final intensive preparation for the reception of baptism that would take place at the great Easter Vigil, modeled on the forty-days Jesus spent in the desert following his own baptism in the Jordan by John. During this time, the catechumens were scrutinized, given instruction, called to conversion, taught the great creedal formulas of our faith and prayed over by the whole Christian community.

With the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter, the Easter season became a time of basking in the glow of these newly received sacraments and of introducing the neophytes to the life and mysteries of the Church. It was a celebration that continued on not only for a day or a week, but for a week of weeks; fifty days of contemplating and celebrating the depth of God's love for us, the hope born of the resurrection and the life that comes forth from the waters of the baptismal font.

Of course, throughout this time of preparation and then celebration at Easter, the whole Church of God journeys with those preparing for the Easter Sacraments, praying for and with them and walking with them on their pilgrim way. Lent and Easter was for the whole Church a time of deep reflection on the gift and call of baptism, a time of renewal and recommitment, a time of journey and of hope.

So it is today. Within these pages of our newsletter are the stories of some of those who are coming into the Church this Easter. Each calls to mind a particular journey and path, which nevertheless shares our common longing for God, a desire for faith in the person of Christ and of life in a community gathered around an altar of praise. As they make this journey among us, and like those that came before, we are called to make the journey with them, to pray for and with them, and to walk with them on their pilgrimage. Perhaps we are also invited to allow their stories of journey and faith to reawaken within us our own commitments and a renewal of our own hope in the love that has been given to us in Christ Jesus. These men and women are a gift to us. May we be one with them in a life animated by a faith that was first born in the waters of our baptism into Christ.



Welcome RCIA Participants

For many months now, the following individuals, along with their sponsors, have been involved in a process to learn about our Catholic faith and traditions. That process of inquiry, for many of them, will culminate with full initiation into the Catholic Church this Easter. These individuals consist of both children and adults, married and single. In this special edition of *Perpetual Motion*, we would like to acknowledge the newest members of our Catholic family and introduce you to a few of them. We invite you to join us at the Easter Vigil Mass on Saturday, March 26, to witness their joyful initiation into the sacramental life of the Church.

Catechumens (Unbaptized):

Jordan Bryant
 Ronny Hornung
 Sydney Herrin (child of Amanda Goetz)
 Dustin Williams (husband of Kristie) and children:
 Kaden, Ryker, & Kanon
 Inara Kochert
 Holden Faith

Candidates (previously baptized):

Jessica Clemmons
 Amanda Goetz
 Stephani Hardin
 Sally Johnston
 Chris Morris
 Katie Shoffner
 Juanita Schickel
 Kristie Williams

Children (to be baptized only):

Matthew Hardin (4 year old son of Stephani)
 Nalani Kochert

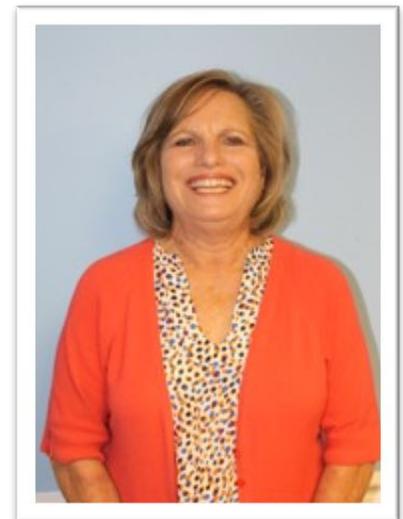


Meet Amanda Goetz...

I grew up going to a Church of Christ with my parents in Borden, IN. I was baptized around the age of 15. I came to RCIA classes because, while I have always believed in God, I haven't always walked the path that I should have as a Christian. I love the tradition of being Catholic and have always been curious and wanted to know more. Also, my husband is Catholic and it was important to him that the children go to a Catholic school because he felt their education would be better. We were led to Our Lady because of family members that are here. With all of that I felt it was the right time to do the RCIA classes. I didn't know what to expect really, other than learning what being Catholic meant. I have learned so much going through these classes. I often feel as though I have always been a part of this and I belong here. I feel by doing these classes I will be able to answer questions my children may have as well, as they go through their own journey.

Meet Ronny Hornung...

Raised by Jewish-born parents in Queens, N.Y., I never really thought about going to temple until I was in Junior High. Neither Mom nor Dad gave priority to the family's spiritual life, so at the age of 13, I began attending a conservative synagogue (without my parents or siblings), followed by a short foray into a reformed synagogue. Shortly thereafter, Mom and Dad joined a 'humanist religion' called Ethica Culture. None of these options took root in me. My maternal grandparents kept a Kosher home and were very devout, practicing Jews. Looking back, I realize that Grandma Lena and Grandpa Abraham witnessed for me what being religious and faithful should look like.



Unfortunately, they both died before I turned 14. The last time I set foot in a synagogue was five years ago in New York when my nephew turned 13 and I attended his Bar Mitzvah.

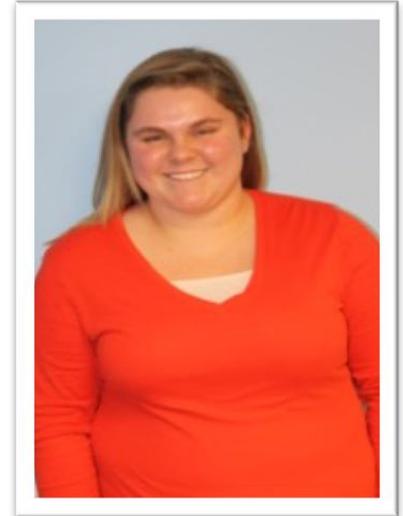
Why RCIA at my age? My husband, Bob (a/k/a "Mr. H") was raised in a Catholic home by faithful parents. All of his siblings were married in the Catholic tradition. Our daughter, SaraRose, attended St. Mary School, Providence High School, and Bellarmine University. I have attended Mass with Bob intermittently throughout our 32 years of marriage. Last year, it became clearer to me that it was time to find a spiritual home. The Catholic community of Our Lady welcomed me in a way that made me want to be a part of this church. Fr. Eric, Deacon Jeff, Tom Yost, Connie Andres, Mary Ann Bennett, Dolores Sparks, all the participants in my RCIA class, as well as others too numerous to mention, showed me how important it is to have a special relationship with Jesus. Other churches I attended in years past felt more like entertainment. Our Lady feels like worship, which as it turns out, was what I was seeking.

My expectations were akin to enrolling in a philosophy class and hoping to grasp the concepts presented. The reality is that I've gained a great respect for the tenets of Catholicism, the Priesthood, the Diaconate and the Sacraments. In addition, I have many new friends with whom I share a special

bond, and who I look forward to spending time with each Wednesday evening. With Holy Saturday looming I look at my Baptism as a public declaration of a private decision. I am slightly nervous, but more hopeful. I will finally be able to participate fully in Holy Communion and continue to grow in faith... "Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching..." Colossians 3:16. I ask Him to strengthen my faith, especially as I take this next step.

Meet Sally Johnston...

I did not have a strong religious background in my younger years growing up; the first time I remember going to church I was maybe 7 or 8. We went to many different churches, mostly Christian or Baptist. We started attending Northside Christian when I was around 10, and we attended there regularly from that point as I grew up. I was very involved in their volunteer ministry in my teenage years, specifically childcare. I had a strong Biblical knowledge and understanding at that point, but I felt like there were aspects of my faith that were not being nurtured.



My grandmother on my mother's side is Catholic, and I began to discuss my faith with her in the interest of learning more about hers. I think, to some extent, in more mainstream Christian churches the Catholic church is somewhat stigmatized as being harsh and even heretical. But as I learned more about the Catholic church and its teachings, I began to believe that the Catholic church has a more accurate understanding of Biblical concepts. For example, I had always felt very drawn to Mary, as she is the mother of Christ, but in my experience in the Protestant churches I attended, Mary was rarely mentioned, and I was never able to understand why this was.

A few years ago, I found myself in a valley in my faith journey, and I began to feel more and more at odds with many Protestant beliefs and practices. I was interested in exploring the Catholic faith, but hesitated in doing so as I had never attended Mass before and I was nervous it may be difficult to follow along or understand what was going on.

I first started attending Mass with my grandmother at Holy Trinity in Louisville for several months. As I began to learn more about the Catholic faith, I was eager to join the Catholic church and start my faith journey with a Catholic foundation. The traditional manner of the service, a greater reverence and understanding of the Eucharist, and the Catholic church's honor for Mary and the saints were just a few things that propelled me on my faith journey to join RCIA and the Catholic church.

Jordan (Bryant) and I started attending Our Lady last June, and after attending for about a month and a half we met with Tom to express our interest in attending RCIA and joining the church.

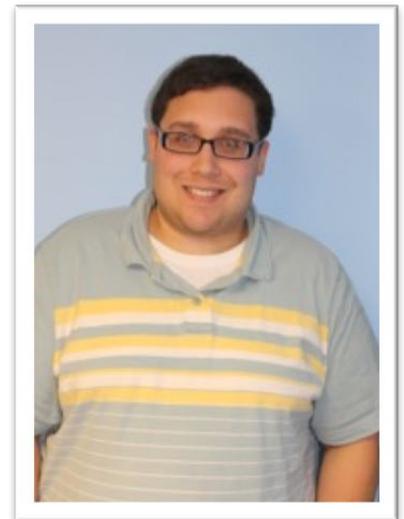
For me, the most fulfilling part of the RCIA program was being enveloped in a close-knit community of people who share my faith. While we are all at different points on our faith journey, and we come from many different backgrounds, it has been very exciting to share the RCIA process together, and also to watch everyone's joyful anticipation grow as we draw nearer to Holy Saturday. As RCIA is starting to wind down and we begin to approach Holy Saturday, I have tried to make it a point to be more intentional during Mass by remembering why we do the things we do, or say the things we say. It can

become very easy to go through the motions, so whenever Mass begins I always say a prayer that God will draw out of the homily, songs, etc. whatever message he intends for me to hear that week. At the completion of the Mass and throughout the day, through prayer I try to discern what the message was, and keep it close to my heart throughout the week. I am eagerly awaiting Holy Saturday and my confirmation into the church; throughout RCIA, my reverence for the Sacraments has grown tremendously, and I am greatly anticipating my first Sacrament, which will be Confirmation.

While my family is not Catholic, they have still been generally supportive throughout RCIA and my journey so far with the Catholic church. One of the most common misconceptions I hear, though, from Protestants about Catholicism or the Catholic church is something along the lines of "The Mass just doesn't interest me. It has nothing to do with me or the world we live in today." Or even, "Times have changed so much, and we aren't the same as people were hundreds of years ago. The Catholic church hasn't kept up." While these comments are not usually meant as an attack on the church or its teachings, these comments do not reflect a true understanding of the Mass. When I hear people make these remarks, I remember a verse that has remained near and dear to me: Hebrews 13:8 - "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." It should be our intention to align ourselves with Christ and draw closer to Him through the Sacraments and the Mass. This verse has really fueled my faith journey with the Catholic church, and I am looking forward to deepening my faith.

Meet Jordan Bryant...

While growing up in Terre Haute I had a very limited religious background. Neither my father nor my mother attended church regularly. I went to a Baptist church with my mother and brother when I was younger. But that didn't last long with my mom's constantly changing work schedule. The next point in my life that I went to church was with my father when I was 12 or 13 years old. We attended a Nazarene church for about a year. While attending a few different non-denominational protestant churches, I came to the realization that it didn't feel like a church. The churches felt like a big "rock concert" with a very limited sermon. I came to that conclusion when I started to attend mass with Sally and her grandmother.



I felt so moved by the Catholic church. I always felt that Mary should have had a bigger role than what she had in most Protestant churches. That, and how traditional Catholic churches were, is what ultimately drew me to Catholicism. There were many Catholic churches that we liked in Louisville, but we decided to stay in this community. Sally (Johnston) and I attended Our Lady in late June, then joined Our Lady's RCIA in mid-August. I didn't know what to expect when I joined RCIA, but I'm glad I followed the call I felt.

I feel like my heart, mind, and spirit have been filled. I feel closer to the local community but much more importantly, closer to God. I am happy to call Our Lady of Perpetual Help my church. With Holy Saturday quickly approaching I am filled with various emotions: excitement, accomplishment, and a much deeper faith. I can't wait to be baptized into the Catholic faith!

Meet Juanita Schickel...

I cannot remember my earliest religious experiences. I lived with my half-brother and his family and was told I was baptized by total immersion in a river near Marshalltown, Iowa. I was five years old at the time. We attended a non-denominational church and were faithful in our attendance.

At the age of eight, however, I returned to New Albany and lived with a family who attended a Presbyterian church. From there, I went to live with my foster family, the Bolings. We attended Advent Christian Church.

There was Sunday School, Sunday service, youth group and Sunday night service. I sang in the choir on Wednesday following prayer meeting. This is where I really found my faith, and my love of the Lord. I was baptized again at the age of twelve. I remember the experience vividly. Peace came over me as I was raised from the water. I am sure it was the Holy Spirit.

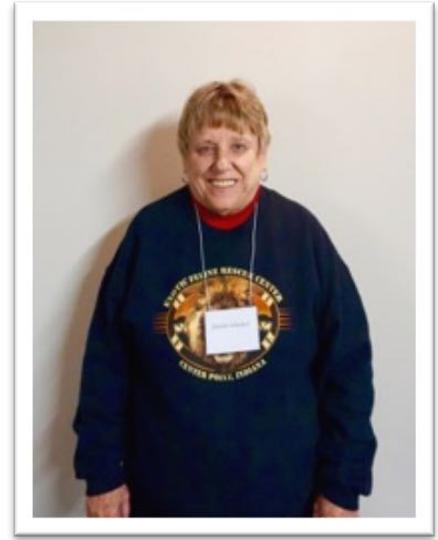
I married a Catholic man, Mick Schickel, in Holy Trinity Church. Over the years, I attended church with him at Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church. I also attended Northside Christian Church for a short time. None of these churches, however, really made me feel “at home” until we started attending OLPH about 10+ years ago. Many times I thought about joining the church, but what really convinced me was the spirit of family and caring I realized through church activities I attended with my daughter, Wendy Kaiser, and her family.

Although I didn’t know it, I was looking for a church family that showed their love and concern for those with whom they came in contact; who prayed together and played together, and came together to help each other and others in the community. That is what I’ve found here at OLPH.

Through RCIA I am taking steps to become Catholic. As such, I have renewed my commitment to the Lord. Tom Yost has been a wonderful example and has proven himself a good Catholic and a caring person. Wendy and Paul have also helped me learn the rituals of the church and have been so very supportive. I also love the interaction with the others in the RCIA and have made a number of good friends here. I expect that in the days and months to come that they will help me stay on the right path as I endeavor to serve the Lord.

As Holy Saturday approaches, I find that I am more anxious to be a part of this family of Christian believers. I also look forward to taking communion for I do believe it is the body and blood of our Savior, Jesus.

I have played bridge for almost 50 years and I am still learning the game. That is how I feel about joining the church. I am constantly learning and will, with God’s help, be a good Catholic and a witness for Jesus.



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Did you Know...

The Right of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a Vatican II renewal of an ancient process of initiating and welcoming people into the Catholic Church. This process incorporates adult learning principles and invites participants to ask questions, listen to the Church's "faith story", and compare it to their own life experience. It is very respectful of the unbaptized or previously baptized and the various experiences people bring to the process.

People are welcome to inquire about the process any time of the year. Upon inquiring, the first step is an initial interview or conversation with the RCIA Director to get acquainted with each other and the process. Depending on one's experience of faith and the time of year they inquire, a particular plan of initiation is put into place. The primary piece of the process is weekly formation meetings from August through April with participants entering the Church at the Easter Vigil. Another important part of the process are ritual experiences with the faith community sprinkled throughout the year.

Ultimately, the RCIA is a discernment process helping people to listen and respond to God's call or plan for their life. A call to intimacy with Jesus Christ.