

The Catechumenate (continued)

- ◇ A bible is given to each catechumen/candidate.
- ◇ They are dismissed from Mass after the homily to reflect on the Scriptures that have been proclaimed and the homily and to make connections with their lives.
- ◇ They study Church teaching and the Christian life of prayer and faith.
- ◇ Since they are being formed to be members of the Catholic Church, it is the responsibility of the entire parish to participate in their formation through witness, support, and prayer.



Purification and Enlightenment

- ◇ This is a focused time of preparation for initiation.
- ◇ It begins the First Sunday of Lent and lasts until the Easter Vigil.
- ◇ At the Sunday liturgies, the parish sponsors testify to the community how they have seen growth in the catechumens' and candidates' readiness to become full members of the Catholic Church.
- ◇ Catechumens sign the Book of the Elect in preparation for Baptism.
- ◇ All are sent to the Cathedral for presentation to the Bishop.
- ◇ They continue to reflect more deeply on the Lenten scriptures.



Sacraments of Initiation

- ◇ In the early Church, the Easter Vigil was the only liturgy of the year in which people joined the Church. It is our most important liturgy because we celebrate Jesus' victory over death and our sharing in his life through Baptism.
- ◇ Catechumens are baptized, confirmed and receive Eucharist.
- ◇ The candidates are confirmed and receive Eucharist for the first time.



Mystagogy

- ◇ It means reflecting on the mysteries.
- ◇ All of us are in this stage, continuing to deepen our understanding of our faith and strengthening our relationship with God as followers of Jesus.
- ◇ We live our faith through service to others.



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Our Candidates

St. Mary Catholic Faith Community, Hales Corners
October 2011

Welcome!

At the beginning of October we celebrated the Rite of Welcome with those who are preparing to come into full communion or to complete their initiation. We would like to introduce them to you.

Our presence and support are essential during the time of their preparation. We are their source of encouragement as well as models and teachers of the faith. Through us, these candidates will come to know the Church.

We invite you to be a support to them in several ways. The primary ways in which you can do this are through welcoming the candidates when you see them, praying for them, and by modeling a truly Christian lifestyle. Some ways that you can help make this support more apparent include:

- Making them feel welcome at St. Mary at Mass and other parish events
- Remembering them in your prayers
- Becoming a prayer partner (*Take a prayer card for a specific person. They are available in the Communication Center and the Parish Office*)
- Sending an occasional note or card through the Communication Center. There is a box clearly marked RCIA.
- Setting a good example of what it means to live our lives as Christians
- Sharing in special celebrations that occasionally take place at Sunday Masses and by joining them at the Easter Vigil when they will be confirmed and receive First Eucharist.

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CATECHUMENS are those who have never been baptized. When they are received into the church at the Easter Vigil, they are baptized, confirmed and receive First Eucharist. We do not have any catechumens this year in our process.

CANDIDATES are those who have already been baptized in another faith and now wish to become full members of the Catholic Church. Or, they have been baptized in the Catholic Church, but never received First Eucharist and have not been confirmed. They now prepare to become full members of the church or complete their initiation through Confirmation and Eucharist.

What is the RCIA?

The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is the process through which the Church welcomes new members. It became the process in 1971 in response to the call of the Second Vatican Council.

It is for persons who have never been baptized or those who have been baptized in other Christian denominations or baptized a Catholic but have not celebrated first Eucharist or Confirmation.

The RCIA, while new in a sense, is not really new. It is an effort to restore the spirit of early Christianity by emphasizing conversion as a participation in the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus. It stresses the role of the entire praying, witnessing and teaching Body of Christ in giving support and shape to that journey.

It is a series of rites in the context of learning about the faith and spiritual formation through which a person is fully incorporated into the Body of Christ, the Church.

There are four stages:

- ◇ The Pre-catechumenate/Evangelization
- ◇ The Catechumenate
- ◇ The Period of Purification and Enlightenment
- ◇ Mystagogy



The Pre-catechumenate/Evangelization

- ◇ Also called the Inquiry stage.
- ◇ Persons contact the parish about their interest.
- ◇ They start attending sessions.
- ◇ For those who have been engaged in their own study or who have attended Mass regularly, this period may be a few months.
- ◇ For those with little background, more time might be needed. This stage can happen any time throughout the year.

The Catechumenate

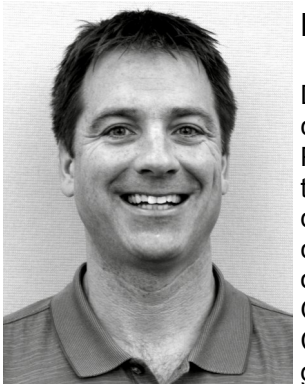
- ◇ The person formally decides to join the Catholic Church.
- ◇ There is a Rite of Acceptance for those not baptized and a Rite of Welcome for those already baptized. The Rite occurs at a Sunday Mass.
- ◇ They are signed by their parish sponsors with the cross on their foreheads, ears, eyes, lips, heart, shoulders, hands and feet as a sign of their readiness to follow Jesus in all aspects of life.



Kyle Spahr

Kyle is married to Amy and has one child Samuel (age 8). He is a truck driver and former nurse. He enjoys reading, hiking, kayaking and yoga. Kyle was baptized in the Assembly of God Church. He went to Bible college and has studied Zen Buddhism. He wants to make faith practical in everyday life and to have a deeper walk with Christ.

His parish sponsor is Jodi Fabbri.



Dan Zigich

Dan is married to Angie; they have two children: Logan (age 5) who attends St. Mary Parish School and Ava (age 3). He is a technology sales person. Dan enjoys going to dinner and movies with Angie and taking their children to the beach. He likes to read and be outdoors. Dan was baptized in the Serbian Orthodox Church and raised in the Lutheran Church. He sees the RCIA process as a great opportunity to become a better person, get to know God better, share in the faith of his family, help make right decisions and contribute/give back to the parish community.

His parish sponsor is Michael Kampa.

A Prayer for Our Candidates

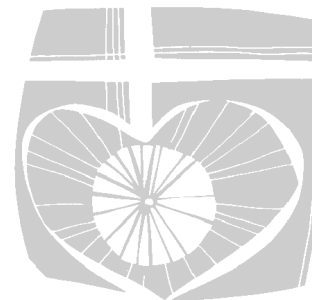
These candidates, who are our brothers and sisters, have already traveled a long road. We rejoice with them in the gentle guidance of God who has brought them to this day. Let us pray that they may press onward, until they come to share fully in our way of life.

- ~ That God our Father may reveal his Christ to them more and more with every passing day.
- ~ That they may undertake with generous hearts and souls whatever God may ask of them.
- ~ That they may have our sincere and unfailing support every step of the way.
- ~ That they may find in our community compelling signs of unity and generous love.
- ~ That their hearts and ours may become more responsive to the needs of others.
- ~ That in due time the candidates may be found worthy to complete their initiation through the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist,

This we pray through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

~ Taken from the Rite of Welcome



Our Candidates



Erin Anderson

Erin is a native of Duluth, MN, who moved to southeastern Wisconsin about eighteen months ago. She is a nurse in the NICU at Sinai Hospital and is dating Mike Dillett. She has family in Racine. Erin enjoys anything outdoors, especially water sports. She also likes going out to eat and seeing movies. She was baptized in the Lutheran Church and is looking to form a stronger relationship with God through the RCIA process.

Her parish sponsor is Pat Warner.



Christine Di Stefano

Christine is married to J.P. and they are expecting their first child in March. She is a Unit Coordinator at St. Luke Medical Center and loves her job. She started as a nursing assistant and medical secretary. She enjoys being quiet, listening to music, spending time with a few close friends. She was baptized in the Lutheran Church and has felt comfortable at St. Mary since meeting J.P. She wants to deepen her faith and relationship with God.

Her parish sponsor is Judith Janik.



Daniel Kram

Daniel is married to Becki; they have two children: Sarah (age 10) and Matthew (age 12) who attend St. Mary Parish School. He is a computer programmer and enjoys movies, camping, video games, playing the piano and saxophone, the YMCA and playing sheephead. He was baptized in the Baptist Church when he was about 10 years old. He feels strongly about giving his time, talent and treasure to the parish community, and feels welcome at St. Mary.

His parish sponsor is Bob Parker.



Kelly Mulvenna

Kelly is married to Kevin; they have two children at St. Mary Parish School: Joseph (age 11) and Emily (age 7). Kelly is a teacher at MATC and was baptized in the Lutheran Church. She likes to scrapbook, cook, landscape and make cards. She wants to share faith as a family and to give of herself to the Catholic community.

Her parish sponsors are Amy Koetting and Kristen Pfeifer.



Donnie Paskiewicz

Donni is a delivery driver and is dating Jill Balcerowski, a St. Mary parishioner. He was baptized in the Catholic Church and is now seeking to complete his initiation through confirmation and Eucharist. His love is stock car racing and he is a fun loving person. He wants to gain knowledge about the Catholic faith and have a better understanding of and relationship with God.

His parish sponsor is Tom Warner.