

# WELCOME INTO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH!

Six adults were welcomed into the Catholic Church through the RCIA process on July 21, 2020. Each one is pictured with their sponsor and in some photos (L to R) Fr. Matt Shireman, Fr. Dave Hennen, and Deacon Rod Walker. The witness statements below share a bit about their faith stories and their experiences in RCIA.



Confirmation and Eucharist

## Geoff Campbell

Sponsor: Heather Campbell

Heather and I moved to Hastings in 2017 and have been married for six years. We have been blessed with two children, Charlie and Reese. I grew up in the Christian Reformed and United Methodist church. My wife is Catholic and both of our children were baptized Catholic. With the encouragement from my family and friends and my desire to learn more about the Catholic faith, I decided to go through the RCIA program. I feel like it has brought me closer to my family and to God.

## Catherine Holmstrom (below left)

Sponsor: Amy Rondeau

Three years ago we were having a difficult time in our marriage. Through God's grace we were able to start talking openly with each other again; Jim found us a good marriage counselor and we attended

Retrouvaille. Two years later we seemed to be in a pretty good place when Jim was in a serious accident. I was afraid I was going to lose him after all. I prayed to God the whole drive to the hospital and somehow, he was OK with only broken bones. I can only describe this as God's intervention. During those moments when we thought might be his last, Jim told me he forgave me and he loved me. I truly believe it was God's grace that brought us back together, protected Jim, and allowed us to reconcile. I believe receiving the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist will allow me to grow in my faith, and fully participate in the Catholic community.

## James Holmstrom (below right)

Sponsor: Kevin Holmstrom

In the most difficult moments of my life, praying to God provided refuge for my soul and a lifeline for my sanity. Praying in those moments of crisis gave me something difficult to describe, a succor that could only be given by God, a balm for all wounds. It didn't take away my burdens, but helped me bear them. Jesus' example of love and forgiveness lets me put aside pride and hurt, to see value in empathy, understanding, and forgiveness. His words and examples also taught me that pettiness and selfishness would be my own ruin. I believe the light in my heart that I feel when I help others or right my own wrongs is the Holy Spirit encouraging me towards such actions. I think receiving the sacrament of Confirmation and Eucharist will let me feel like a true member of the Church, no longer an outsider looking in, and help me find encouragement and inspiration to put my efforts to better use to help others.



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**Heath Mast (man on left)**

Sponsor: Kason Lauber

Jesus Has Made a difference in my life through the birth of my children. I feel the Holy Spirit working through me when I pray with my children. We each take turns sharing what we would like to pray for and then we pray together. Receiving the sacraments strengthens my faith and brings me closer to Jesus so that I can share my faith with others. Praying to God has helped me through good and bad times, particularly when my wife and father were diagnosed with cancer. Prayer gave me with strength to support each of them.

**Kate Mast (woman on left)**

Sponsor: Laura Lauber

Knowing Jesus is in my life has helped me get through extreme tough times, from dramatic health scares, to job loss, to living through a pandemic. I also believe it has taught me gratitude; to appreciate as well as to show my kindness. Because of the Holy Spirit I am a better person and I try to make the best possible decision even if it not my desired outcome. How can I be my best self? How can I serve others? I believe having the sacraments will keep me consistent, strengthen my faith, and deepen my relationship with God. I have learned to love to pray.



**Sarah Schneider (woman on right)**

Sponsor: Heather Chavie

While Jesus has always been in my life, he has gradually become a stronger force since starting RCIA. I feel I am calmer than in the past and prayer has taken a front row seat in my life. Prayer is what got me through homeschooling my daughter and what is getting me through the Pandemic. I have a much better understanding of the Catholic Faith as a whole, but especially the importance of the Eucharist. I look forward to receiving my sacraments to strengthen my bond with Jesus.

