

BILL LEMONS *I come from a Protestant background but have always felt like I was “half Catholic” because my Dad’s side of the family are all Catholic. When I was young, I drove my Grandmother to church(she was a terrible driver) so I sat through many masses with her & also participated in weddings, funerals, & other family events. My wife Laurie & I were seeking a new beginning in our faith & I was thrilled when she suggested that we explore Catholicism. We have learned a lot these past months in our RCIA class: history of the Church, Advent & the Church Year, how to pray the Rosary, Mary & the Saints, & how mass is structured. But we have also learned about the Bible, Ethics of Life, the Seven Sacraments, & most importantly who is Jesus Christ. The focus on praying, keeping the Sabbath holy, loving our neighbors, & putting God first in our lives are lessons I will never forget & for that I am grateful for the teaching & patient guidance of Deacon Pat, our wonderful Priests, & the entire RCIA staff who led us along the way in this amazing journey.*

NOELLE MANCHINI *There are many different reasons why I wanted to become a Catholic. I have always wanted to strengthen my relationship with God. As a young child, I spent a lot of time discussing my faith with my parents & grandparents. I have always felt a deep connection to the Catholic Faith & traditions that I learned from my family. The belief that the Eucharist is truly God’s body also is one of the main reasons that I want to be a Catholic. Another reason is being that I am baptized Catholic, I wanted to ensure that I complete all of my sacraments & become a true member of the church & in the future raise my children in the church. I want to pass on my relationship with Christ & my Catholic Faith with future generations & hope that others see Christ’s love in me. These are the reasons that I want to become a Catholic.*

AMANDA WINFIELD *There was an indescribable feeling that I experienced when baptizing my son in the Catholic Church in 2019. I had an incredible peace & overwhelming calm come over me, & will always look back on that day as one of my most favorite days that I can remember. I knew on that day that I wanted to learn more about God & the church so that I could experience more of that feeling with my family. Learning more about the church & being exposed to the bible for the first time in my adult life through RCIA was life changing for me, & I am excited to continue this journey & keep learning as a baptized member of the church.*

RCIA PRAYER

*Lord, we pray for those who journey to You.
Strengthen their faith.
Open their hearts to the fullness of Your love.
Deepen their understanding
Set their hearts alive
For the Kingdom.
We ask this through Jesus,
who is the Way,
The Truth,
& the Life for all.*

AMEN

*Upper Allegheny Valley Grouping
Parishes of Our Lady of Victory,
St. Alphonsus, Holy Family, Holy Martyrs,
St. Joseph & Our Lady of the Most Blessed
Sacrament welcomes you to the*

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults Mass & Celebration



*June 21, 2020
Most Blessed Sacrament Church*

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS MASS
UPPER ALLEGHENY VALLEY GROUPING
JUNE 21, 2020 at 1PM
MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH



OPENING HYMN Praise To The Holiest

FIRST READING Jeremiah 20: 10-13

RESPONSORIAL PSALM "Lord, in your great love, answer me."

SECOND READING Romans 5: 12-15

GOSPEL Matthew 10: 26-33

HOMILY

BAPTISM

CONFIRMATIONS

Profession by Candidates: *"I believe & profess all that the holy Catholic Church believes, teaches, & proclaims to be revealed by God."*

OFFERTORY HYMN The Servant Song

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

COMMUNION HYMN You Are Near

1ST COMMUNIONS (after candidates receive communion, the remaining practicing Catholics can come forward for communion)

RECESSIONAL HYMN City of God

ROBIN BERGSTROM *What brought me to the Catholic Church was my family. I was very fortunate to have been raised by faithful Presbyterian parents who shaped my religious beliefs and practices at a young age. When my husband passed away seven years ago, I immediately began attending services at OLMBS weekly with my son. I found the messages reiterated in the homilies, the scripture readings, the prayers and the music, gave me hope and the strength to continue to live a life centered around Christ. My family, the parishioners, and my fellow RCIA class members and teachers have been very welcoming and supportive on my journey to conversion to Catholicism. I feel truly blessed by God to have been led to this path at this time in my life.*

AMY CELKO *What led me to become a member of the church was my now husband (and sponsor) Bill Celko. When we first met in 2014 he made it very clear to me how important his religion and church were to him. He invited me to come to mass with him at St. Ladislaus Church early in our relationship, and the beauty of the church and the mass drew me in. I am a lifelong Presbyterian & the beliefs are not too different from what I was raised with, and I was interested in learning more. As our relationship progressed, I started attending mass regularly and began getting my kids involved as well by enrolling them in CCD so that we could practice religion together as a family. Being united under one religion & practicing together as a family has strengthened & solidified our relationship (& now marriage). It has also given me & my kids a new "church family" & a sense of community we didn't have before. I am very excited & grateful to be joining!*

AUSTIN CICIARELLI *I wanted to join the church after I went to my cousin's first holy communion. I asked my grandma if she would take me to church. We started going to mass every week. I like to go to different Catholic churches. I like to sing and say the prayers and get a blessing at communion time. I can't wait to receive Jesus!*

LESLIE DUDA-PARHAM *Wanting to be a better role model to my children led me to the church. Two years ago, we enrolled our son in OLMBS School due to the small class sizes and family like setting. One day, he came home with a picture he drew titled "My Baptism." He said everyone in his class drew a picture of their baptism and since he wasn't baptized he drew what he wanted his baptism to look like. There were shimmering metallic crosses everywhere, there was mommy & daddy, his brothers, & Fr. John pouring holy water over his head. In the picture, he had the biggest smile on his face! How could I ask him to learn about Jesus & attend mass when I was not? How hypocritical of me! I didn't want to be that parent. I didn't want him to begin his journey alone. I wanted to be there to support him. Together, we started reading about Noah's Ark, kids bible stories, & attending mass as a family. Now, if one of the kids does something wrong our 5 yr. old says "You have to forgive him Mommy, like God!" It's hard to be mad after hearing that. And we have met so many wonderful families through the church. It's amazing how one simple decision can affect so many things in your life. Now I know there's times where it may feel like we are taking 2 steps back but we are always moving forward.*

LINDA JANOSKY *I have always had a strong belief in God, but wandered away from the church. I was baptized Catholic. I have had some difficult times in my life and God was always there to guide me through it. With the encouragement of my very special friends Janet & John I started to attend mass and I feel I've come home. I will continue to grow in the Catholic Faith and follow the path God has chosen for me.*

LAURIE LEMONS *I have longed for a closer relationship with Christ but was unable to figure out how to accomplish it. Through my RCIA journey & attending weekly mass, my eyes & heart have finally been opened. What initially drew me to the Catholic Church is twofold. First is the rich history dating way back to St. Peter. But more importantly is the inspiration I've received over the years from seeing the many family members on my husband's side live out their Catholic faith in their daily lives. I have felt in my heart for a long time that Catholicism would be a good fit for me, & I thank God for leading me to & walking with me on this path.*