

A JOURNEY OF FAITH

I spent my first eight school years at St. Margaret Mary's. For reasons unknown to me, my parents sent me to public high school rather than one of the several Catholic schools available at the time. During my high school years, I drifted away from the church. As I grew and gained more freedom, I stopped attending Mass and receiving the sacraments. This all took place well before Vatican II. I only knew of the Latin Mass. Altar boys were taught to learn the Latin responses by rote. Neither they nor the parishioners were encouraged to actually understand the words. As soon as the nuns were no longer in my life, the process just stopped. The message that remained with me was, "Do this and don't do that, or you'll go to hell."

Timing is everything. For boys entering their teens, within a few short years, exposure to girls, beer, cigarettes, and cars prevails. At least, those were the important things in my life. This would have been the critical time in life for the nuns and brothers to continue riding herd. Instead, high school, college, marriage, job, children — all came to pass without attention to the Lord or His Church. My wife and I were married in the Church with a Presbyterian minister and a priest on the altar. My dad would have been heartbroken otherwise. But moving on, I didn't practice the faith nor did I raise my children in the Church. (The latter remains my greatest regret to this day.) Life went reasonably well for us, and we seemed content.

In 2003, I began to feel the Lord calling. To be sure, the psychologists speak of running *toward* desire and running *away* from the undesirable. I'm sure the Lord uses both methods when it's time to round us up. And there was a little of both in place early in 2003 for me. Christ the King was my father's church. Lacking reason to look elsewhere, I began to make random visits. At off hours, only the Lord and I were there. I began to feel a little better. I began to meet with Fr. Pat Butler, and in time the message became clear: examine my conscience and confess my sins, and I would regain my status as a practicing Catholic. Easy? Try remembering all the sins from the past 50 years. But it was done, and it was wonderful.

I began to attend Mass on Sundays and occasional weekdays. Renewing my relationship with the Lord and experiencing the Eucharist was very rewarding, but within a short time I began to feel that something was still missing. Within the Church, there is a universe of information, tradition, prayer, and much more. Many of these things can be grasped only by a mature adult mind. Everything I knew about the church was experienced when I was a child, and it was mostly in Latin. At that time, I had not even heard of RCIA. In time, I became aware of the process and spoke with the Director of Faith Formation. It seems that the RCIA was thought of as a resource for non-Catholics. But in conversations with the director, it was agreed that I could "audit the course" if I'd like to. I went on to participate in RCIA three times: twice at CTK and once in Boston with my daughter, who had heard the call shortly after I did.

In 2003, I returned to the Church after a 50-year absence. My mind and heart overflowed with everything Catholic. The RCIA helped me become closer to the Lord. Today, I associate with people of our faith. I feel comfortable in conversations at any level. I've attended several types of group sessions and feel at ease there. My knowledge of our faith and its liturgy and tradition all resulted from RCIA. I would recommend to anyone to look into the RCIA experience.

~Written by CTK parishioner John Fassett

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www.ctkffym.org/adultfaithenrichment
RCIA: www.ctkffym.org/rcia



**ADULT FAITH FORMATION
AT CHRIST THE KING**

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

No matter where you are along your faith journey, Christ the King is here to accompany and support you! Parishes all over the world welcome new Catholics during the Easter Vigil through the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)**, a framework offering prayerful discernment, reflection, and formation that helps introduce them to Catholic beliefs and practices as well as deepen their relationship with God. This period of inquiry has no set timetable, as every individual's faith journey is different. The RCIA also welcomes those who would like to learn more about the Catholic faith in general.

If you have never been baptized and wish to become Catholic, or if you would like to share your faith knowledge and experiences as part of our parish's RCIA team, please contact our Faith Formation office at **(518) 464-4776** or by sending an e-mail to ljensen@ctkparishny.org. We also offer formation for adults who have been baptized Catholic but have not yet received the sacraments of Eucharist and/or Confirmation — as well as for adults who have been baptized in another Christian community and are seeking full reception into the Catholic Church through receiving the sacraments.

Christ the King has an amazing RCIA team, and we are sincerely grateful to them for sharing their time, knowledge, and caring — and accompanying individuals along their faith journeys with prayer, welcoming, and compassion!

Left: 2021 Easter Vigil.



SEPTEMBER

✠ Beginning Sunday, September 12th: **"The Wild Goose"** virtual study series (via Zoom, through Formed); 7 P.M. This series, moderated by Fr. Dave Pivonka, is an invitation to enter into a more profound, life-giving relationship with the Holy Spirit. For the Zoom link, please contact Maureen McAuliffe: mtsm22@aol.com.

OCTOBER

✠ Thursday, October 21st: **"Planning Your Exit So Others Don't Have To."** 6 to 7:30 P.M. in our Knights Chapel. Local funeral directors and diocesan cemetery personnel will be on hand to present an informative talk about funeral planning and other topics, such as the Catholic Church's stance on cremation.

NOVEMBER

✠ Thursday, November 18th: With thanksgiving, our Adult Faith Formation community will come together in the Knights Chapel from 6 to 7:30 P.M. and pack **Thanksgiving baskets** for our community. We will also enjoy prayer, fellowship, and snacks.

DECEMBER

✠ Thursday, December 16th: **Sr. Teresa Grace Baillargeon**, vocations director for the Sisters of the Resurrection New York Province, will offer a presentation about Joseph and Mary: the ultimate vocation (*title subject to change*). This event will be held from 6 to 7:30 P.M. in our Knights Chapel.

JANUARY

✠ Thursday, January 20th: Join us for a movie night at Christ the King in our Knights Chapel at 6 P.M. with a film from Formed about **St. Joseph**.

FEBRUARY

✠ Thursday, February 17th: Enjoy a faith-filled presentation from 6 to 7:30 P.M. by **Barbara Palumbo**, storyteller. Barbara is also a catechist, a lector, and a new parishioner at Christ the King.

MARCH

✠ Each Thursday at 6 P.M. from March 10th through April 7th: enjoy a film series called **"Forgiven"** from Formed. Join us in the Knights Chapel for this film series (each about 30 minutes, followed by discussion). A perfect Lenten reflection!

APRIL

✠ Friday, April 29th: Join us in the Knights Chapel from 6 to 7:30 P.M. for a second-part presentation by Sr. Linda Neil, CSJ, on **Laudato Si**.

MAY

✠ Thursday, May 19th: 6 to 7:30 P.M. in the Knights Chapel; a presentation on **Mary** by Christ the King parishioner and musician Marie Woodward (*title TBA*).

