

RCIA

Rite of Christian
Initiation for Adults

Church of Christ the King Meet the Candidates 2015

Gerri Horn



– I was a cradle Catholic, but for some reason, never made confirmation. I just lived with the gap until I attend RCIA sessions with Mike. Dennis mentioned the three categories of RCIA candidates – those who were never baptized, those baptized into another faith and Catholics who had missed a sacrament of initiation. He mentioned we had no one in the third group, so I raised my hand and told him I could fill that spot.

The entire process has been simply joyful. In fact, the words that come to mind in describing this parish are joy and yes. Every question, every need here at Christ the King is always answered with the word yes.

David Bush



– My wife is Catholic and grew up here. I was raised Lutheran, but we were married in the Catholic Church in 1998.

After moving to New Jersey 20 years ago, we attended a couple of churches, but something just felt good here at Christ the King. We joined the church and have been members for 12 years now. I had always planned to do RICA, but the timing was never right. We have two 9-year-old boys, who went through First Communion at Christ the King, and I always thought it would be nice thing to do with my sons – but it just wasn't the right time.

Last fall, Dennis called and told me this was the year. He said he had a great group and now was the time. I have really enjoyed getting back to discussing the word and the Gospel, and Dennis was right – it really is a good group of people and a nice mix.

Jason B. Fowler



– Growing up, my mom was Catholic and my dad was Presbyterian. My brother and I were raised Presbyterian, and I had what I would call a “quiet” faith. I didn't talk about it, but I always felt there was something higher.

My fiancée, Deborah Sittig (daughter of Christ the King parishioner, Roger Nettune) and I each have 3 children. About a year ago, Debbie and I traveled to Rome. I had always admired Debbie's faith and that of her family, and then to experience the warmth of Pope Francis – I really felt a connection.

I knew my personal values aligned with Debbie's and those of the Church, so I talked with Roger and Dennis and went through the informational sessions for RCIA. In getting to know the other candidates, I've been surprised to see there is something very similar that brought each of us to this point. There's a real sense of community within the group and the entire church.

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Jenny Rooney – I was raised Episcopalian, but my husband, Peter, and our two children, PJ and Emily, are Catholic.

We love the concept of family-based religious education and participated in PJ's second grade religious education process for First Communion at Christ the King.

I considered RCIA an opportunity for me to learn more about the Catholic faith. It has re-energized my faith, and I have a sincere appreciation for how it has strengthened my relationship with Christ. The sessions are a rich opportunity for learning and questioning, and the sense of community and friendship within the group has been amazing. I have enjoyed lots of religious influences in my life and RCIA is a culmination of those faith experiences.



Jacque Delli Paoli – Growing up in the U.S. and Italy, I have experienced a lifelong connection to the Catholic Church. From a very positive relationship with the nuns at preschool, to my business and philanthropic work in Latin America, Haiti and Africa, my coming to the Catholic faith has been a lifelong process – an unfolding call.

Before coming to RCIA, I had been meeting with a priest for about 3 years, so I had done most of the background work and felt now was the time. A priest at St. Francis of Assisi in NYC encouraged me to seek a church close to home, so I talked with Dennis.

I know this church well. I've come to Easter sunrise services many times, so this just feels like a natural progression. As far as RCIA, I have such an appreciation of the group. It's inspiring to see this is so important to others. I believe we're called to come together ecumenically, and that there are similarities in all faiths. The mystery of God working through my life is very fresh.



Elias Scultori – I came to this country 23 years ago from Brazil, and following grad school at Westminster, I accepted an interim position at St. Patrick's in Chatham and ended up staying for 8 years. After leaving, I worked fulltime in graphic design until Fr. Paddy invited me to come to Christ the King as a Pastoral Associate of Music & Graphic Arts.

I've been here for 10 years, and I have thought many times about going through RCIA, but the problem was always timing. It finally worked.

For me, RCIA is different because I have experienced these rites as a liturgist, and now, I'm participating as a Candidate. The process has been what I expected – no surprises – but it has enabled me to grow in faith. My personal journey is less about catechesis and faith formation but instead an opportunity for me to get closer to Christ.

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Wendy Parrinello



was baptized Episcopalian, but growing up in Florida, my time was spent mostly in non-denominational churches. My husband, Peter, is Catholic, and we have three children, two boys and a girl, whom we are raising Catholic.

We first came to Christ the King last year for the Easter Vigil and were truly taken. We loved it! We had been searching for a church that we could connect with, and I knew in that moment, at the Easter Vigil, that Christ the King was where our family would worship and share in our faith journey.

RCIA has been wonderful. It's learning and enlightening and I find that it has the ability to make being Catholic relatable. I've enjoyed the opportunity to ask questions, and to hear what others are thinking and feeling about becoming Catholic. Mostly, though, I've enjoyed walking down a path that I never would've imagined. It's a blessing and I'm thankful for it everyday. I'm truly looking forward to becoming a Catholic.

Fred Schoenbrodt



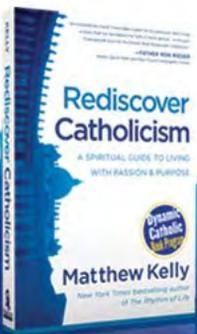
- I grew up in Maryland and was raised in the Lutheran church. My wife, Nicole, is Catholic and from New Jersey, so we were married here at Christ the King in 1998.

After living in Hawaii and Maryland, we eventually returned to New Jersey. Nicole was always a diligent churchgoer, and I would come along. We have three children and celebrating the sacraments with them, I always felt a little left out and separated from them.

I had been eyeballing RCIA for years, but I hadn't made the decision until coming to Christ the King. I appreciated Fr. Paddy's approach and how he explained all the readings. That, combined with the new Pope checking all the boxes of what I thought Christianity was supposed to be, made this year the year.

The inclusiveness of the church has made it easy. As a parent, it's unusual to have your children introduce you to an experience. I'm pleased my children have had the opportunity to welcome me into their faith.

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**Christianity is
at its very core
counter-cultural.
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counter-cultural?**

-Matthew Kelly