

The start of my Faith Journey,

Because of motivation from some co-workers, I visited a non-denominational church, during the summer of 2023, but something just didn't feel right. I thought it would be good to attend Mass with my grandpa, Aunt Joyce and Uncle Dave. Though I knew very little about the details concerning my faith in August of 2023. I just wanted to grow my relationship with God and give thanks to him for all the blessings and miracles I've experienced and witnessed along with the beauty of the world we live in.

Coming from a home that did not worship, I had not been baptized nor had I grasped the joy in concentrating on Jesus. After my first non-holiday Catholic mass attendance in seemingly my life my grandpa asked why Deacon Charlie looked at me funny. I didn't realize what I had done wrong at that point, but I think I had walked away before consuming the host. Then through some discussion I discovered I had never been baptized and that was mandatory before accepting the Body and Blood of Jesus, that got my wheels turning. I had always thought that believing in God and being a good person was all I needed to do.

I came back the next weekend and approached Father Kyle with my inquiry after Mass. He immediately directed me back to Deacon Charlie. He was so helpful and informed me that RCIA would be beginning in a couple weeks and that would teach me all about faith and traditions of the church and in the end, I would be baptized.

The classes were very informative through multiple ventures of learning. From videos from Dr. Brant Pitre, "Why we Worship", to some of Deacon Charlie's favorites in Genesis and a very cool tool, Jeff Cavins bible timeline study guide. It was such good information I could feel my thirst being quenched. I don't think a single person could, in good faith, attend these classes and not become filled with love. I tried not to miss a single class. It was my lifeline. However, life does happen, and when I couldn't attend, the RCIA team was always very understanding and cooperative. It was like I hadn't missed a beat!

Immediately, from the kindness and welcoming and forgiving spirit of the community at St. Rose, I knew this would become home. The community in RCIA itself is awesome! The classes were alive with the Holy Spirit in questions and answers, filling us with His love at every turn. Patty always leading us in prayer, Eric and the team assisting us with our discussion and Tim encouraged me to get involved with Saint Rose's young adult group.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to let my experience be shared. Hopefully it is helpful to others who are seeking.

Thank you for encouraging me to share my RCIA
experience. Nic Schwind RCIA 2023-2024

If you would like information about this faith formation program, please contact
Patty Russo at 419.874.4559 ext. 201 or Deacon Charlie McDaniel 419.261.0940.