Becoming Catholic

The vast majority of Catholics, including most of the adults reading this essay, entered the Catholic Church as infants. We were born into a Catholic family and baptized soon after. As we grew, we learned about the Catholic faith from our families and perhaps at Catholic schools or in our parish religious education programs. At First Communion we were admitted to the table of the Lord where we could fully celebrate the Eucharist along with the rest of the community. Eventually, most of us were confirmed, and somewhere along the line, we made our own heartfelt commitment to our faith.

But what if you didn’t follow this particular path of slow growth in faith? What if, as an adult, you were drawn for the first time toward a Catholic community like Old St. Joseph’s?

This is the reason that in 1972 Pope Paul VI gave the Church the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Pope Paul was following the mandate of Vatican II to restore the catechumenate, a common practice of the early Church. The word *catechumen* comes from the Greek and means ‘one who is instructed.’ The *catechumenate* is the period of discernment and formation that prepares new members for full initiation into the Catholic Church through Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. A deepening of faith and genuine conversion are the goals of the RCIA, leading the newly initiated to take their place within the Catholic Christian community and join its life of service to the Gospel and building the Kingdom of God. But the RCIA does not just affect those undertaking the process of initiation. The RCIA can form, and transform, the community in which it is celebrated.

In order to appreciate how this happens, it helps to know the steps of the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. The very first paragraph of the ritual book for the RCIA states as its purpose:

*The rite of Christian initiation. . .is intended for adults. They hear the preaching of the mystery of Christ, the Holy Spirit opens their hearts, and they freely and knowingly seek the living God and enter the path of faith and conversion (RCIA, 1).*

The RCIA “process” is divided into stages, with liturgical celebrations marking the transitions between some stages. The first stage, the Period of Evangelization, or Pre-Catechumenate, is often an individual experience, when someone experiences the preaching of the Gospel and notices the first stirrings of faith. The next stage, the Catechumenate, is a time for information and formation into the basics of the faith, for getting to know and pray and work with the Catholic Christian community. It’s at this stage that individuals often become part of a group instructed by catechists in

—*continued inside*
### 12:05 Daily Mass Intentions & Presider

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Mass Intention</th>
<th>Presider</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/16</td>
<td>Old St. Joseph’s Memorial Society</td>
<td>Fr. Dougherty SJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/17</td>
<td>Old St. Joseph’s Memorial Society</td>
<td>Fr. Modrys SJ</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/18</td>
<td>Old St. Joseph’s Memorial Society</td>
<td>Fr. Gillespie SJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/19</td>
<td>Gloria Rice (D)</td>
<td>Fr. Dougherty SJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/20</td>
<td>Edward &amp; Mary Britt Families (D)</td>
<td>Fr. O’Donnell SJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/21</td>
<td>Joanne Tozzi (D)</td>
<td>Fr. Gillespie SJ</td>
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### Saturday-Sunday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Presider</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/21</td>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td>Fr. Dougherty SJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/22</td>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>Fr. Modrys SJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>Fr. Modrys SJ</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:30 AM</td>
<td>Fr. O’Donnell SJ</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>Fr. Gillespie SJ</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Apostleship of Prayer

Each month, Pope Francis asks for our prayers for a specific intention. He has entrusted these intentions to the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (also known as the Apostleship of Prayer). Visit popesprayerusa.net for a reflection and an examen on this month’s intention and for further resources to deepen daily prayer.

**Pope Francis’ intention for September is for the protection of the oceans, and that politicians, scientists and economists work together to protect the world’s seas and oceans.**

### Centering Prayer

The centering prayer group will meet on **Wednesday, September 18 6:30–8:30 PM** in the Drexel Parlor of the rectory. The meeting will include discussion of centering prayer followed by evening prayer with a time of centering. Anyone interested in contemplative prayer is welcome. For further information, contact Christine Szczepanowski at prep@oldstjoseph.org.

### Children’s Liturgy of the Word on Begins Today, September 15

At **9:30 AM Mass**, beginning on **Sunday, September 15**, all children are welcome to take part in the Children’s Liturgy of the Word. When they are called forward and dismissed by the presider, the children (and their caretakers, if desired) can make their way down to Barbelin Hall to hear the Scriptures and pray together in ways suited to their faith development.
When a catechumen is ready, the Rite of Election is celebrated. The catechumen travels to the cathedral to be presented by the parish to the diocesan Bishop or Archbishop and “chosen” to receive the Sacraments of Initiation, Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist, at the next Easter Vigil. This begins the Period of Enlightenment or Intense Preparation, which coincides with the observance of Lent, and culminates on Holy Saturday night at the Vigil.

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults ends with the mystagogia, a time during the Easter season when the new Christians, or neophytes, reflect on the significance of the ‘mysteries’ they experienced in their initiation at the Easter Vigil. The word neophyte comes from the Greek for “new plant;” faith has been newly planted in the neophytes, and its blossoming will continue to develop.

Reflecting a pastoral concern for the complex realities of modern life, the RCIA also makes provisions for those who have been baptized in another Christian community and for those who may have been baptized in the Catholic Church but whose growth in faith stopped short of First Communion or Confirmation. In the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, those seeking such full communion with the Catholic Church may share in the RCIA and complete their initiation on the first Sunday after Easter.

Now, what does all this have to do with the whole community? How is the parish affected by one person’s or a small group’s journey through the RCIA?

Again, the ritual book of the RCIA provides the beginnings of an answer:

*The initiation of catechumens is a gradual process that takes place within the community of the faithful. By joining the catechumens in reflecting on the value of the Paschal Mystery and by renewing their own conversion, the faithful provide an example that will help the catechumens to obey the Holy Spirit more generously (RCIA, 4).*

The presence of catechumens in the parish offers all the members of the faith community an opportunity to reflect on the state of their own discipleship. As catechumens move through the RCIA, we may ask ourselves, how well do I answer the Gospel’s call? How well does our parish reflect Gospel values in all its actions? Are we a welcoming community, inviting in all people as brothers and sisters? How loving are we to one another? Do we share our bread with the poor and welcome the widow, the orphan, and the stranger into our lives? How wisely do we use our resources to build the reign of God in our world?

It is good for us regularly to ask these questions; all of us are called to continual conversion. When we join with catechumens as they progress through the RCIA, we also open ourselves to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. We look to see where we have been faithful and where we are in need of correction. When we renew our baptismal vows on Easter, we can recommit ourselves to the call to discipleship; we can help align our parish a little bit closer to our Gospel mission of working for the Kingdom.

On the surface, the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults looks like a far more arduous process than getting baptized as a child. The timing is obviously different, but the goal and dynamics are the same. Whenever we experience our initiation into the Catholic faith, we do the same things: we listen for the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives, we grow in our relationship with the God who loves us and Jesus Christ who saves us, and we do all these things with the help of a community that accompanies us on our journey of faith.

—Walter Modrys SJ
Pastor
Announcements

James Martin SJ at SJU
Fr. James Martin SJ, author and editor-at-large for America Magazine, will speak on Building a Bridge: Reaching Out to the Excluded in Our Church on Tuesday, September 17 at 7:00 PM at St. Joseph University’s Foley Center. Fr. Martin will address how, through respect, compassion and sensitivity, we can create a welcoming, inclusive space for all in the Catholic Church. This event, which is sponsored by the Faith-Justice Institute’s Klein Fund and the Center for Inclusion and Diversity, is free and open to the public. Copies of several of Fr. Martin’s books will be available for purchase.

The next Young Adult Community Spirituality Night will attend Fr. Martin’s lecture be at SJU. Please email osjyac@gmail.com for more information, including transportation options and meeting location.

Open House
Sacred Heart Academy’s Upper School will hold an Open House on Saturday, September 21 from 10:00 AM–12:00 PM at the school at 480 S. Bryn Mawr Avenue, Bryn Mawr. Visit SHAbrynmawr.org for details and to RSVP.

Flu Shots and Medicare Part D
On Sunday September 22 at 12:30 PM in Barbelin Hall free flu shots will be available to anyone over nine years of age from a pharmacist certified in vaccination protocol. Please bring your insurance and/or Medicare Part B cards with you; there will be no additional charges The same afternoon at 12:30 PM, Jeanmarie Zippo RN, a parishioner and medical case manager, will demonstrate how to use medicare.gov to choose the best Medicare prescription coverage (Part D) for you.

Hunger and Migration
On October 20, Old St. Joseph’s will once again host an Offering of Letters. We will write to our senators and representatives about foreign aid that can help alleviate the hunger and insecurity that drive people to migration. Over the next few weeks, the bulletin will include background information on the links between hunger and migration from Central America. Thanks to Lorraine Knight for this information.

Each day the news carries stories about the migrants from Central America journeying to the southern border of the United States. Most are traveling from the Northern Triangle of Central America: Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. They are driven by the deplorable and dangerous conditions in their home country; their migration is treacherous and not undertaken lightly.

The countries of the Northern Triangle are among the most violent in the world. Unscrupulous corporations seize the farmers’ lands through their control of what passes as a justice system. Rampant crime is aimed at ordinary citizens. Violence against women and girls is increasing in alarming numbers. Children and teenagers are subjected to assault and intimidation by gangs and threatened with death if they fail to comply.

Pope Francis has spoken directly about his concern over the persecution of children:

I would also like to draw attention to the tens of thousands of children who migrate alone, unaccompanied, to escape poverty and violence: This is a category of migrants from Central America and Mexico itself who cross the border with the United States under extreme conditions and in pursuit of a hope that in most cases turns out to be vain. They are increasing day by day. This humanitarian emergency requires, as a first urgent measure, these children be welcomed and protected. (Papal message on the occasion of Mexico–Holy See colloquium on human migration and development. July 14, 2014).

This humanitarian emergency has only grown more acute in the five years since this statement.
OSJ YAC’s 10 Year Anniversary
Old St. Joseph’s Young Adult Community is celebrating its ten-year anniversary this fall! All former and current community members are invited to join us today, Sunday, September 15 for an afternoon of celebrating at Independence Beer Garden at 100 S. Independence Mall West, starting at 3:00 PM. (The rain location will the Bourse). Young adults are also invited to the Pre-Mass Reflection at 5:30 PM at OSJ prior to attending 6:30 PM Mass. Questions? Email osjyac@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!

The Saint of 9/11
The Eldership Community invites everyone to a showing of The Saint of 9/11 in Barbelin Hall today, Sunday September 15 at 1:30 PM. Directed by Glenn Holsten and voiced in part by Ian McClellan, the 90-minute film chronicles the restless and remarkable spiritual journey of Father Mychal Judge, the chaplain of the New York Fire Department. Fr. Judge was among the first to rush to the World Trade Center in New York City on September 11, 2001, and the photo of his body being carried from the rubble remains one of the iconic images of that day.

Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, and Ushers
Please update your availability today, September 15 for the October 1 – December 1 ministry schedule.

If you’d like to be more involved at Old St. Joseph’s, please consider signing up for one of these liturgical ministries through the Ministry Scheduling Program at www.oldstjoseph.org. Scheduling is flexible and training will be provided!

RCIA at Old St. Joseph’s
The first steps of the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA—as described in the bulletin essay beginning on page 1) will begin at Old St. Joseph’s on September 29. If you seek initiation to or full communion with the Catholic Church, you are invited to speak with any member of the pastoral staff or email rcia@oldstjoseph.org.

Health Care Professionals
All health care professionals—students, active and retired practitioners and administrators—are especially invited to gather at 6:30 PM Mass on Sunday, September 29. An informal reception will follow in Barbelin Hall. Come and be with others who share your faith and your work and its challenges!

Stocking Up for Faith, Food & Friends
During the weekend of September 21–22, Old St. Joseph’s will collect essentials for our guests at Faith, Food and Friends. Our greatest need, and the most requested item, is socks. We need:

- Multi-packs of men’s crew socks (No shorties or quarter socks, please!)
- Disposable twin-blade razors (No single blade, please.)
- Travel size deodorant, 5-ounce size
- Travel or small size toothpaste, shampoo and hand/body lotion

We can also always use:

- Standard-sized bar soap (Irish Spring and Dove for Men preferred).

We have very limited supplies on hand, and would appreciate donations, of:

Bring your donations to Mass and leave them in the baskets in the back of the Church. The volunteer staff at Faith, Food and Friends will do the rest to get these small but helpful articles to people for whom they make a significant difference!
INFORMATION

Pastor
Fr. Walter Modrys SJ (pastor@oldstjoseph.org)

Parochial Vicar
Fr. Fran Gillespie SJ (fgillespie@oldstjoseph.org)

In Residence
Br. Robert Carson SJ
Fr. Edward Dougherty SJ (dougherty@oldstjoseph.org)
Fr. Ed O’Donnell SJ (eodonnell@oldstjoseph.org)

Pastoral Associate
BJ Brown (bjbrown@oldstjoseph.org)

Business Manager
Eric German (germane@oldstjoseph.org)

Director of Music
Mark Bani (music@oldstjoseph.org)

Parish Offices
(office@oldstjoseph.org)

Religious Education (PREP) Coordinator
Christine Szczepanowski (prep@oldstjoseph.org)

Faith, Food & Friends Director
Deborah Hluchan (faithandfriends@oldstjoseph.org)

Rectory Office Hours
Monday through Friday: 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM
Sunday: 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Mass Times
Monday through Saturday: 12:05 PM
Saturday Vigil Mass for Sunday: 5:30 PM
Sunday: 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 AM and 6:30 PM
Holy Days: 12:05 and 7:00 PM

Medical Emergency
In a medical emergency when the need for a priest is urgent, please call the rectory.

Hearing Enhancements
Old St. Joseph’s is equipped with an audio hearing loop. Switch on the T-coil function of your device to use the loop. Booklets with the Sunday readings are available in the rear of the church.

Registration
Registration forms are available in the rectory office during normal office hours, on the bookcases in the back of the church and online at www.oldstjoseph.org. They can be returned to the parish office by mail or in person.

Sacrament of Reconciliation
A priest is available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation Monday through Saturday from 11:30 AM–12:00 PM or by appointment.

Sacrament of Baptism
If you want to arrange a baptism, please call Fr. Dougherty at the parish office at least two months before the desired date to arrange catechesis and the baptism celebration.

Eucharist for the Homebound
To arrange to receive Communion at home, please contact the parish offices.

The Sacrament of Anointing
The Sacrament of Anointing (the sacrament of the sick) is offered during the 12:05 PM Mass on the first Saturday of each month. Homebound or hospitalized persons wanting to receive the Sacrament of Anointing should call the parish office.

Sacrament of Matrimony
If you want to be married at Old St. Joseph’s, please visit our website, oldstjoseph.org and read the material under the heading Weddings, then call the parish office at least nine months before your desired wedding date.

Rite of Christian Initiation
If you are an adult wishing to be baptized, or to receive First Eucharist and Confirmation, or are a baptized non-Catholic seeking full communion with Catholic Church, please call the parish office.

Mass of Christian Burial
To schedule a funeral or memorial Mass, ask your funeral director to call the parish office

Parish Pastoral Council
(osjpc@oldstjoseph.org)

Parish Finance Council
Paul Shay, chair

Historic Preservation Corporation Board
Fr. Walter Modrys SJ, president

Adult Education
Rita O’Brien and Jeanmarie Zippo (adulted@oldstjoseph.org)

Eldership
Pat Nelson (eldership@oldstjoseph.org)

Parish Life
Joe Casey (parishlife@oldstjoseph.org)

Ignatian Spirituality and Formation
Len Mancini (osjspirituality@oldstjoseph.org)

Women, Faith and Fellowship
Rana McNamara (wff@oldstjoseph.org)

Young Adult Community
(osjyac@gmail.com)

Altar Servers
Maria Ramirez (altarserver@oldstjoseph.org)

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
Bill Stewart (EM@oldstjoseph.org)

Hospital Ministry
Luanne Balestrucci (hospitalEM@oldstjoseph.org)

Homebound Ministry
Neal Hébert (homeEM@oldstjoseph.org)

Lectors
Lou Anne Bulik (lectors@oldstjoseph.org)

Ushers
Nikola Szigorich (ushers@oldstjoseph.org)

Children’s Liturgy of the Word
Peggy Connolly (clow@oldstjoseph.org)