

From the Desk of Father Jeff



St. Catherine Labouré Parish is Thriving!

Last year our parish had the amazing honor of bringing in to the Catholic Faith about eight individuals, consisting of children and adults through our OCIA. This is roughly the average that we have been bringing in annually in recent memory. So far this year, the number of those who have seriously inquired about becoming Catholic through OCIA is forty! Yes, you read that right, 40! We are so thankful for the amazing ways that the Holy Spirit continues to build up and transform our parish into a parish that is clearly missionary in proclaiming Christ and putting God first!

It is with this in mind that I want to tell you about the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA). Perhaps you know it by its former name, RCIA, but the heart of the program remains the same: it is the beautiful and intentional process through which individuals are brought into full communion with the Catholic Church.

OCIA is for those who are seeking. It is for the unbaptized, the baptized Christian from another tradition, and even for Catholics who have not yet received all their sacraments. It is a journey of discovery and discernment, a time to explore the teachings of the Church, to deepen one's relationship with Jesus Christ, and to find a spiritual home.

But OCIA is not just for those who are entering the Church; it is for all of us. The program relies on the witness and support of our entire parish. It is a shared journey. We are called to walk alongside these inquirers, to pray for them, to share our own faith stories, and to welcome them with open hearts. By participating as sponsors, catechists, or simply as welcoming parishioners, we ourselves are renewed in our faith and reminded of the profound mystery we celebrate each week.

OCIA is a beautiful, transformative process. It is a testament to the fact that our God is a God of new beginnings, a God who is always calling us closer. It is a chance for our parish to live out the Great Commission, to go and make disciples of all nations, beginning right here in our own community.

I invite you to prayerfully consider how you might be a part of this journey. Do you know someone who is curious about the Catholic faith? Invite them to learn more about OCIA. Are you yourself a baptized Catholic who is missing a sacrament? We would love to have you join us.

OCIA is a vital part of our parish life. It is the living, breathing reality of our mission to evangelize and to form disciples. Let us open our hearts and our doors to those whom the Lord is calling to Himself, and let us be a community that joyfully welcomes.

If you are interested or have children who may be interested in joining OCIA, please email ocia@scldph.org

Welcome to our Many New Families!

Over the past month, our parish community has been blessed with a beautiful sign of God's grace: we have welcomed 17 new families to our parish!

This growth is a testament to the Holy Spirit's work among us. It is a beautiful thing to see our pews filling up with new faces. Each new family brings with them unique gifts, stories, and a renewed spirit that enriches us all.

Our parish is more than just a building; it is a living, breathing body of Christ. And like any healthy body, it is meant to grow. Your warmth and hospitality have made our parish a true spiritual home for these newcomers, and for that, I thank you. Let us continue to be a welcoming light, sharing the love and truth of Christ boldly with all who walk through our doors.

Let us rejoice in this growth and pray for these new families as they begin their journey with us.

Senior Breakfast on October 24:

RSVP for our next Senior Breakfast on Friday, October 24th in Lower LeGras! People have been raving about the delicious food and how much they enjoy the fellowship! Please see the 3rd page of this bulletin for more information and how to register.

Welcome to our 19 New Altar Servers!

Last week our parish trained 19 new altar servers. Let us pray in thanksgiving for them and for their families who encourage such an important role in the liturgy. To be able to serve in the sanctuary and assist in the Mass where Jesus Christ becomes truly present in the Eucharist is such an amazing opportunity and we are thankful for all of our altar servers who do such a great job!