



St. Brendan Parish Reflections from Recent RCIA Candidates

What has been the impact of the RCIA process for you?

“Joining with my fellow candidates and our teachers, to become part of a smaller community within the larger St Brendan community, and the much larger community of Catholics. It is one of the main motivations I've had for converting - to be part of a loving community - and this group has made it real.”

“The most impactful part of this process is being able to see how much different I feel each day with this new light in my life. I feel as though I can face challenges much easier now and ultimately feel lighter.”

“As someone who has witnessed the rites while attending mass for many years, I have found such a deeper appreciation what each rite stands for and its importance to our faith. This educational process has given me a new outlook on all the separate and unique parts of our faith and I have found that this in turn has given me a much larger sense of fulfillment in the practice of my faith.”

What part of the process did you most enjoy?

“Getting to know the community and feeling supported by all! Each guest speaker brought a new energy each week that made classes very enjoyable. I also appreciated hearing from numerous members of the community that echoed how inclusive Saint Brendan's is.”

“I liked the in-person sessions in the church. The second one was my favorite as it explained some things about Mass and Catholic symbolism that I didn't know about. It was a nice lecture/discussion that you don't see as a normal part of Mass, like a small-group experience. It felt like I was in school again except with topics I care about this time.”

What has been challenging?

“The most challenging part has been allowing myself to be vulnerable, share out and trust in God. That can be difficult sometimes, especially with a group of new people.”

“Going to confession was challenging. I didn't like it the first time I went about ten years ago, and I hadn't planned on going again. But I thought I should as part of confirmation, so I went recently. It was better than I remembered, and Father Mike was helpful and supportive.”

“I don't know if challenging is the right word but learning both the similarities and differences between my Presbyterian upbringing and Catholic teaching have given me the most to ponder. Learning what separates the two faiths, and the importance of those differences has taken a lot of reflection and prayer. While this reflection has been difficult it has also helped to reinforce my conviction that, while hard, this is the faith path I am meant to follow.”

What do you hope for as a full member of the church?

“I hope that I continue to be reminded - as I have been for the last several months of RCIA classes - to commit myself to something greater than myself, and to be loving and generous to those around me.”

“To continue to get closer to this church and raise my future family I will have one day within this community.”

“My hope is to take what I have learned over the [past months] and continue to deepen my understanding of the teachings of Jesus and the traditions of our faith that set us apart as Catholics. Most importantly I want to explore and share my faith with my wife and children.”

What will you do to nurture your life of faith and service?

“I'll be a full participant in the community, surround myself with the people who will be that reminder to commit myself to something greater than myself, through the school and the church.”

“In order to nurture my life of faith and service I will continue to take part in community events and strive to become a better Catholic with each passing day.”

Please Contact Sr. Angela Furia (srangela@stbrendanparish.org) or call the St. Brendan Parish Office for more information on the RCIA program.