

PARISHIONER

Seeing with the Light
of **JOY** Profile



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 17, 2017

This Advent, as we reflect on the theme *Lighted Windows*, We are sharing the witness of parishioners who light the windows of their hearts and lives (and the world) with the specific light we are focusing on that week.

Faith is our foundation. Born into the Catholic faith, our parents made the decision to baptize us. As an adult, we choose to enter into or renew our Catholic faith. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) allows a person to explore and develop their faith, and begin their journey to discover the true joy of the church through the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and Holy Eucharist. Today, we share the words of those who have taken or are currently on their personal journey.

The love and light of Jesus is a beacon in a storm which guides our way. I have found such joy this far in the RCIA process. It is a highlight of my week, knowing as I am getting closer to the Lord. Each new piece of knowledge brings joy in understanding that my journey is the one I am meant to be on. The love and support that I feel is beyond compare. *~Jenn*

Joining the Catholic faith and Saint Catherine Labouré Parish has brought me great joy over the past year. Shortly after I began RCIA my husband and I went through the hardest experience of our lives. The faith family gained through RCIA were so extremely supportive. The prayers we received from our new faith family helped God answer our prayers with the greatest joy we could experience in the conception of our first child. God has truly blessed us this year and we thankful and joyful for our extended family, both immediate and faith filled. *~Aimee*

I have attended Saint Catherine Labouré with my Catholic husband and children for years. Now I am truly happy to be taking the steps to fully be part of the Parish family. Since attending RCIA, I feel like my Faith and relationship with Jesus have deepened, and know I will continue to turn to the church for strength in the years to come. *~Linda*

Joy is the presence of God. Becoming part of a community that believes in this has brought me overwhelming joy and strengthened my faith. *~Emily*

The journey into the Catholic Church has given me a sense of purpose. It has helped me live with a renewed patience in my new role as a father and guardian. Through this, I can see others in my community as helpers and role models. With their help, I can gain a better understanding of myself and a better understanding of my relationship with God. *~Jason*

My heart is filled with a joy that comes from knowing the unconditional love and acceptance our Heavenly Father offers to us. *~Pam*

I've found joy coming into the Catholic Church by having a constant reminder of Christ in all areas of life. The light of Christ I've witnessed through others, giving to those who are less fortunate, and offering charity to the needy has encouraged me to also give back. *~Jessica*

Going through the RCIA process has brought me joy by bringing my fiancé and I closer together as we go through life's journeys. We now talk about our shared faith. Her being Catholic, and me becoming Catholic, versus me talking about my previous Protestant faith and her Catholic faith. *~Dylan*

We see the Lord's light in everyone because it is their faith that brings the light. Each belief that we share brings us towards our goal of meeting the heavenly Father. The journey at hand, being either difficult or challenging, will always lead to us reaching salvation. A benefit of this journey is the joy that we feel when embarking on this quest. The joy I have felt joining the Catholic Church is one that words cannot describe. We thank the Lord for the lives that we live and pray for those who are less fortunate than us. *~Zach*

I have found that parishioners of Saint Catherine Labouré work in loving and joyful communion to illuminate the whole Church with Jesus Christ's light. This bond of charity is radiated by the generous outpouring of Spirit, which has touched my soul, humbled me, and overwhelmed my heart with great joy. I hope others have the same experience, and follow the example of holiness which has been set by the Church. I will do my best to kindle the light within myself, and to show this very same grace and charity, and to bring joy. *~Burt*

