

- Faith Journeys Begin for RCIA Candidates
- Priests Celebrate 50th Anniversary of Ordination with Mass at St. Matthew
- Generations of Faith Photos
- Fun Fest Photos

RCIA Candidates Begin Journey

On the weekend of September 17th, the new RCIA group at St. Matthew



RCIA team member Eileen Hobbs enjoys sharing her faith with the candidates.

Parish took a dramatic step on their journey to the Catholic faith. At the 9:30 a.m. Mass, three individuals participated in the Rite of Welcoming, publicly expressed their intention to

of various rites and steps that lead a person into a relationship with Christ and initiates them into the faith community. During the typical week, Fr. Bill or Fr. Steve will dismiss the candidates about half-way through the 9:30 a.m. Mass. After leaving the church, they are joined by 2 members of the RCIA team in the Good Shepard room, to “break open” the Word. During that time, candidates and the team take a more in-depth look at the first and second readings and the Gospel. Team members are on-hand to help guide the discussion about the scripture, as well as to answer questions that might come about. The “breaking open” sessions end around 10:30 a.m. Some weeks, they are followed by an hour-and-a-half session, in which

team members, candidates, and their sponsors gather to discuss a particular aspect of the Catholic Church.

Upcoming topics include Scripture on November 4th and Christian Destiny on November 19th. Eileen Hobbs, who has been a long-time parishioner at St. Matthew and a member of the RCIA team for six years, says she is once again looking forward to the sessions this year. Eileen explains that some of the highlights for her include the open sharing of faith and meeting with the candidates. She also enjoys experiencing the growth of candidates over the months, “as we explore our faith with them, is an overwhelming experience.”

continue their on-going preparation for full acceptance into the faith community at the Easter Vigil in 2007. To the majority of us who were baptized as infants, this step made by these adults is both humbling and admirable. The faith community of St. Matthew welcomes Troy Fields, Christopher Harley, and Curt Schaefer as they continue their journey over the next six months, along with sponsors Matt Knorr, Sara Harley, and Wendy Schaefer.



A journey begins: Fr. Bill introduced the RCIA candidates and their sponsors to the parish at the Rite of Welcoming on September 17. Shown (L to R): Troy Fields and sponsor Matt Knorr, Curt Schaefer and sponsor Wendy Schaefer, and Christopher Harley and sponsor Sara Harley.

Eileen says, “The journey experiences are much the same each year, but then again totally different. We cover most of the same material and practice most of the same Rites, but each candidate and sponsor is unique, so the experience is always different.” One thing people might not realize is the prep work Pastoral Associate Alice Hatzenbeller and RCIA team members put into each session on a weekly basis.

RCIA is a process of welcoming new people into the Catholic faith. It is made up

Eileen explains further, “The week prior to the session, I go over the same materials that the candidates are asked to cover, making notes as I go. Even though the lessons are covered every year, each time we explore them something different seems to come forward. We have an excellent text that we follow, and the books become almost diaries, as we have scribbled notes in the margins over the years. When we “break open” with the candidates each weekend, we are dismissed from Mass and discuss the readings and homily. I also go over the readings the week before, using another book “At Home with the Word” which helps prepare and give additional thought to the readings prior to hearing them at Mass. Often I go on-line and explore Catholic bible commentary sites.”

Despite the large amount of work

that goes into the program, all team members agree it’s worth their time. Once again, Eileen Hobbs, “I have always been thankful that I was moved to become involved with RCIA. Even though I am a “Cradle Catholic”, and have had Catholic education from 1st grade through College, I never felt comfortable talking about my faith and certainly never felt that I knew enough to share it with others. Now I realize that there are many of us in the same boat and that Faith formation is a life-long journey.”

So over the next six months, please keep St. Matthew’s three RCIA candidates in your thoughts and prayers.

If you’re interested in helping out with the program, or if you’re interested in becoming a candidate or catechumen yourself, contact Alice Hatzenebeller by e-mail or call her at (414) 762-4200 ext. 24.

— Article and photos by Robert Tabern



Family and friends gathered with the candidates and their sponsors for a potluck meal after the Rite of Welcoming.



Shown at a recent Breaking Open The Word session are (L to R): RCIA team members Eileen Hobbs and Betty Ann Weiss, Candidate Chris Harley, RCIA team member Gerald Okoli (a seminarian at Sacred Heart School of Theology), and candidates Troy Fields and Curt Schaefer.

Four Priests Celebrate their 50th Anniversary of Ordination with a Mass at St. Matthew

At the 9:30 a.m. Mass on October 1, Fr. Joe Frederick, Fr. Richard Schlenker, Fr. Ed Wieland, and Fr. Herb Schubert celebrated Mass with Fr. Bill in honor of the 50th anniversary of their ordination.

The Mass was a way of thanking them not only for their years of service to the Church, but the help they've given to St. Matthew's — and still give when we need help for Masses and Reconciliation services.

All four priests did comment that they like the reconfiguration, especially being better able to hear one another pray and sing. They thought the change was a big improvement in our worship space.

— *Article by Judy Wargin*



Celebrating their 50th anniversary of Ordination are (L to R) Fr. Joe Frederick, Fr. Richard Schlenker, Fr. Ed Wieland, and Fr. Herb Schubert. Fr. Bill, in the center, celebrated the Mass with them.

Photos from the October 9 Evening Session of Generations of Faith



— *Photos by Dick Schultz*

FAST DAY FUN FEST

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH



St. Matthew Parish Buzz
Produced by the St. Matthew
Communication Committee

Rick Barribeau Robert Tabern
Amy Cicigoi Carol Tenner
Kenn Cicigoi Dick Tenner
Tom Schneider

Submit Photos, Stories or Story Suggestions
to the Communication Committee at
thebuzz@stmattoc.org • 414-764-9617

