

Celebrations

St Raymond Parish

RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Typically, Easter Vigil celebration is when our parish welcomes new members through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). At St. Raymond we have four catechumensⁱ and/or candidatesⁱⁱ who have been preparing for their Sacraments of Initiation into the Catholic Church. Over the course of a year, the catechumens/candidates and their sponsors have gathered together to learn about the teachings and practices of the Church. They have learned traditional prayers, reflected on the Gospel teachings, and discussed serving Christ and the Church's mission. All of them are active participants in our faith community.

Our catechumens/candidates are already starting to learn to rely on prayer and draw from God's strength as they are being asked to wait patiently for the church's doors to reopen in order to receive their Rites of Initiation into the Catholic Church. Until that time, we are asking our community to come together in prayer to offer support and encouragement to these four individuals, their sponsors, and the RCIA team. The catechumen/candidate profiles are listed below; please include them in your Holy Week daily prayers. May they continued to be fulfilled spiritually with the Word of God as we await to welcome them into full communion with the Church.

ⁱCatechumen = seek all three Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist)

ⁱⁱCandidate = is an already baptized Christian who seek to become initiated into the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.

Thank you RCIA Team:

Deacon Dave Babczak, John Semerau, Warren Sandberg and Dan Conlon for your dedication to this program.



Catechumens:
Becky Zajac &
Jim Meagher

Candidates:
Tedd Lundquist &
Chad Sheley



Becky Zajac—Catechumen

My name is Becky Zajac. I have been married to my husband, Luke for 19 years and we have 3 daughters – Anna, Sasha and Josephine (Joey). We have been parishioners at St. Raymond for about 15 years. Luke is Catholic and we baptized our daughters in the faith. It has become very important to me to have a unified and strong spiritual foundation for our family – hence my decision to join RCIA and commit myself to follow Jesus and the Catholic faith.

As the product of an interfaith marriage (Catholic mother, Jewish father) and having grown up as a Jew, I have had many experiences that have inspired me in my faith journey. Having attended Mass with Luke and our girls for about the last 9 years, I learned more and more about the New Testament and slowly my heart began to open to the teachings and power of Jesus. A skeptic by nature, it wasn't until I learned how Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecy and promise that I knew I was ready to make a full commitment and join RCIA.

I look forward to the day when I receive the sacraments of initiation.

Thank you to all who have helped me on this journey. In particular, the RCIA team - Deacon Dave Babczak, Warren Sandberg, John Seme-rau, Dan Conlon; my fellow candidates – Tedd, Chad and Jim; my family and my sponsor, Megan Palm.

My name is Jim Meagher and I have been interested in becoming a member of the Catholic Church for many years. My wife and children are Catholic and I attended Catholic grade school as a child. My wife and I were high school sweethearts and in our 41 years of marriage we have raised 4 beautiful children. I grew up in Chicago and moved to Des Plaines before our children started school. We have been a part of St. Raymond Parish for 3 years and my wife sings in the choir.

I was a truck driver for many years and currently drive a Corporate bus. I have been thinking about officially becoming a member of the Roman Catholic Faith and specifically St Raymond's for years, but for some reason I just was not ready until now. I am excited to continue my Faith journey with the help and support of the wonderful people of St. Raymond's.



James Meagher—Catechumen

RCIA Candidates



Tedd Lundquist—Candidate →

I am Tedd Lundquist, and my wife Kristin and I are relative newcomers to the Mount Prospect community after having moved here last summer. We have two sons, James and Andrew, and our oldest son is enrolled in the wonderful pre-school program here at St. Raymond's (shout out to Mrs. Cunningham!). My wife was a longtime parishioner at St. Vincent de Paul parish in Chicago, which is where we were married and both of our children were baptized.

I was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith in my youth, but I have found over the past few years that I have been drawn to the Catholic faith in order to find a sense of unity with my family. I am so grateful to have been a part of the RCIA program here at St. Raymond's, and I am thankful for all of the help and guidance I have received from Deacon Dave, John, Warren and Dan on this spiritual journey.

Good Day, My name is Chad Sheley, and I am originally from Central Illinois, Lincoln. I was born into the Lutheran faith, and have been a consistent member of the Lutheran church, till I went to School in Carbondale. After graduation, I got an internship up in Chicago, and moved up here, and have been apart of Chicago for the last 20 years. I went back to church under the Christian faith, and eventually through my second marriage, starting my journey in the Catholic faith.

I am currently attending St. Cecilia parish in Mount Prospect, and am appreciative of everything that the St. Raymond Parish has done for me in my travels with God. I hope I can continue this relationship, and maybe have a increased involvement within the parish at St. Raymond.

I have 6 wonderful children, 5 with my second wife, and have cherished my time with them. I have been blessed to have met Deacon Dave, and everyone I have met associated with the parish, that have educated me, and guided me and my family even more into the person I/we need to be everyday. I am excited to have taken this step forward with St. Raymond and God.



Chad Sheley-Candidate