This weekend at the 9AM MQP and 5PM SJ Sunday Masses, we celebrate the Rite of Acceptance and Welcoming of the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA). Just like over a decade ago the Mass was retranslated into English from the Latin, they have been doing all the other rites as well. So this is the new name for what used to be RCIA, the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, as we acknowledge that it's more than just the one rite at the end, but many, and a journey.

We have about 65 children, youth and adults in OCIA. We accept those who aren't baptized into the Order of Catechumens, as they prepare for Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil. We also welcome those baptized in another Christian tradition as Candidates for Full Communion in the Catholic Church, who will in Lent make a Profession of Faith and receive Confirmation and the Eucharist.

Please keep them in your prayers. If you would like to accompany one of them on this journey as a sponsor, sharing some of your own journey of faith, then reach out to Mary Williams at mwilliams@sjcissaquah.org. So many don't have fully initiated and active Catholics that they know who can aid them in this journey and fill this important role.

This is the second year we have a large group joining the Catholic Church. When people ask me why, my answer is that in some ways things haven't changed – the Spirit is always at work. What has changed is perhaps how many are open to the movements of God, and are searching for the fullness of truth, beauty and goodness. The sad part is always how few come because they have been invited by a member of the Catholic Church. OCIA could be even bigger if we were better about sharing our faith and our joy. While OCIA is closed for this year, that doesn't mean that we cant always be sewing seeds, and sharing the Good News, that all may come to know the love and salvation of our God.

In Christ,

Fr. Matthew Oakland