

JUNE 2026 NEWSLETTER

CHURCH OF THE HOLY GHOST



The Origin and Meaning of Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Blessed Sacrament, Eucharist

Exposition and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament is not only a very old devotion in our Church, but one that highlights the fundamental mystery of the Holy Eucharist—that our Lord is truly present, body and blood, soul and divinity in the Blessed Sacrament. In his 1980 Holy Thursday letter to priests, *Dominicae cenae*, Pope John Paul II wrote, “Since the Eucharistic mystery was instituted out of love, and makes Christ sacramentally present, it is worthy of thanksgiving and worship. And this worship must be prominent in all our encounters with the Blessed Sacrament...” (#3). While emphasizing the importance of the Mass, the Holy Father then recommends various forms of Eucharistic devotion: personal prayer and periods of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, exposition and benediction, Forty Hours devotion, Eucharistic processions, Eucharistic Congresses, and a special observance of the Solemnity of Corpus Christi. All of these devotions which focus on the Blessed Sacrament aid in our spiritual union with our Lord. As Jesus said, “I myself am the Bread of Life. No one who comes to me shall ever be hungry, no one who believes in me shall ever thirst” (John 6:35).

The ritual for exposition and benediction as presented in 1973 by the Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship basically follows this ritual: The priest places the Blessed Sacrament in a monstrance or ostensorium on the altar for adoration. (A ciborium containing the Blessed Sacrament may also be used, but the monstrance allows one to view the Holy Eucharist.) At this time, a hymn of praise (such as *O Salutaris Hostia*) is sung as the priest incenses the Blessed Sacrament. During the period of adoration, the faithful may pray in quiet and foster a deeper spiritual communion with the Lord. However, the adoration period should also include prayers, such as a novena or Liturgy of the Hours, and readings from Sacred Scripture accompanied perhaps by a homily or exhortation to increase the understanding of the Eucharistic mystery. At the end of the period of adoration, the priest again incenses the Blessed Sacrament as a hymn of praise is sung (such as *Tantum Ergo*), and then blesses the congregation with the Blessed Sacrament, making the sign of the cross. After the blessing, the priest reposes the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle.

This ritual seems to arise around the institution of the Feast of Corpus Christi by Pope Urban IV in 1264. On this feast day, the Holy Eucharist was carried in procession in vessels similar to our present day Monstrances which allowed the faithful to view the Blessed Sacrament. Eventually a custom arose, especially in Germany, of keeping the Blessed Sacrament continually exposed to view in all of the Churches.

At the same time, members of guilds began to gather to sing canticles in the evening after work in honor of the Blessed Mother. In particular, the singing of the *Salve Regina*, composed in the 11th century, became popular in these devotions. These evening services were called *Salut* in France.

Over the next two or three centuries, these two services seem to have merged. The faithful would gather, usually in the evening for chanted prayers, particularly in honor of our Blessed Mother. The Blessed Sacrament would be exposed, more prayers would be chanted or recited, and the service would end with benediction. Interestingly, benediction is still known in France as *Le Salut Tres Saint Sacrement*.

Why do some groups attack the usage of religious statues and pictures? Why do Catholics have statues and icons? The attack against the Church’s use of religious statues or pictures arises from a misinterpretation of the clauses following the First Commandment: “I, the Lord, am your God.... You shall not have other gods besides me. You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything in the sky above

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

or on the earth below or in the waters beneath the earth; *you shall not bow down before them or worship them*" (Exodus 20:2-5). (Actually, some Protestant denominations list the italicized clause as the second commandment and then combine our Ninth and Tenth Commandments.)

In understanding the context of the First Commandment, we must remember that at the time the 10 Commandments were given, no one had ever looked upon the face of God. Even Moses who was in the presence of God on Mount Sinai did not see the face of God: God said to Moses, "I will make all my beauty pass before you and in your presence I will pronounce my name, 'Lord...'. But my face you cannot see, for no man sees me and still lives" (Exodus 33:19-20). So no one could ever possibly capture God in a statue or a picture; to do so would be simply a conjuring of the imagination.

However, Christ— true God and true man— entered this world and took on our own human flesh. The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. In the gospel prologue, St. John wrote, "...We have seen His glory: The glory of an only Son coming from the Father filled with enduring love" (John 1:14); therefore, "no one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, ever at the Father's side, who has revealed Him" (John 1:18).

Precisely because of the incarnation of the Lord, St. John Damascene (d. 749) asserted in his Apologetic Sermons Against Those Who Reject Sacred Images, "Previously God, who has neither a body nor a face, absolutely could not be represented by an image. But now that He has made Himself visible in the flesh and has lived with men, I can make an image of what I have seen of God... and contemplate the glory of the Lord, His face unveiled." Since the earliest days of the Church we have evidence of depictions of our Lord, of scenes from Sacred Scripture, or of the Saints; examples of such depictions can be found today in the catacombs.

However, in no way does a statue or picture depicting a religious subject— such as Christ, the Blessed Mother, or saint— become an object of worship. Simply stated, Christ is not a statue. To think of a statue or picture as the actual person or to worship that statue or object would be idolatry.

The purpose of these sacred images is clearly to help us human beings in our contemplation of our Lord, of His deeds, and of the saints, so that we may draw closer to Him and be more fully joined to the Communion of Saints. For example, all of us have pictures of our own loved ones, living and deceased. I remember being shown pictures of my great grandparents and even one of my grandfathers whom I never personally knew or saw because he had died before I was born. These loved ones whom I know through their pictures and stories are living realities for me. My family ties are strengthened with these people. I am able to be mindful of the history that is a part of my life. How much more true this is when I look at the picture of my dear maternal Grandmother that I did know but who has now gone home to our Lord. Granted the actual picture is not the person. The picture, though, reminds me of that person, and the life I still share with the person retains its focus.

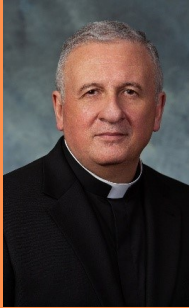
The same is exactly true with a religious statue or image. Again, St. John Damascene stated, "The beauty of the images moves me to contemplation, as a meadow delights the eyes and subtly infuses the soul with the glory of God."

In her history, the Church has battled the misinterpretation of the First Commandment prohibition against graven images. In 730, Emperor Leo III, who ruled what remained of the Roman Empire in the East, ordered the destruction of icons, which are part of the Eastern liturgical tradition. The motive for the action was due to an exaggerated emphasis on the divinity of Christ and unfortunately an abuse of genuine devotion to these images. The destruction of these icons or any other sacred image became known as iconoclasm and was condemned by the Holy Father in Rome. Later in 787, the Second Council of Nicea, defending the use of sacred images, declared, "For, the more frequently one contemplates these pictorial representations, the more gladly will he be led to remember the original subject whom they represent, the more too will he be drawn to it and inclined to give it... a respectful veneration.... For 'the honor given to an image goes to the original model' [St. Basil]; and he who venerates an image, venerates in it the person represented by it."

A new iconoclasm emerged in the Protestant movement. The "reformation" fervor resulted in the stripping of altars, the destruction of religious artwork, and the whitewashing of interiors in many former Catholic Churches. Calvin in particular declared the honoring of the saints as the devil's invention and the veneration of sacred images as idolatry; Calvin's hostility overflowed into the Presbyterian, Dutch Reformed, Huguenot, Baptist, and Puritan traditions. (The Amish today even consider photographs of loved ones graven images.) The Council of Trent in 1563 reacted, stating, "The Images of Christ, of the Virgin Mother of God, and of other saints are to be kept and preserved, in places of worship especially; and to them due honor and veneration is to be given, not because it is believed that there is in them anything divine or any power for which they are revered, nor in the sense that something is sought from them or that a blind trust is put in images as once was done by the Gentiles who placed their hope in idols; but because the honor which is shown to them is referred to the original subjects which they represent. Thus through these images which we kiss and before which we kneel and uncover our heads, we are adoring Christ and venerating the saints whose likeness these images bear."

The Second Vatican Council affirmed the use of sacred images in its Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy: "The practice of placing sacred images in churches so that they be venerated by the faithful is to be maintained. Nevertheless, their number should be moderate and their relative positions should reflect right order" (#125). These sacred images help create a sense of the transcendent. Therefore, whether in our Churches or in our homes, sacred images are a visible reminder of our Lord, the Blessed Mother, and the Saints. Conscious of their living yet invisible presence in our lives, we join our prayers with our Blessed Mother and the Saints to our Lord, looking forward to the time when we will see Him face to face.

**MAKE
CONVERSION: ENCOUNTERING THE SACRED
FR. SAM CONFORTI**



So, I was sitting in my home office when the phone rang. The caller ID revealed it was my accountant, so I took the call. Instead of a business call, he asked me if I wanted to go on a retreat. I was tired from my current workload and so I accepted his invitation. What could go wrong? Retreats usually have decent food and built-in naptime. Well, it wasn't that kind of a retreat. It was a Cursillo. For those that don't know, a Cursillo is sort of a Catholic Bootcamp. To be fair, at the end of my 3 1/2 days I had no complaints. I had made some life-long friends.

In "Cursillo-Speak" the fourth day means the rest of your life. Well on the actual fourth day, I woke up and was **HIT BY A THUNDER-BOLT**. I had no idea what was happening to me, but I felt an immense amount of "Joy". I'm not a person that uses the word "Joy" on a regular basis, but it seemed to me to be the most appropriate term to describe what was happening to me.

After about 3 months of "Joy" and floating on "Cloud-9" I came to slowly realize, with the help of several people, that I was being called to the priesthood. I read the Bible cover-to-cover ... TWICE. I began attending daily mass. I prayed the rosary daily. But where I had my deepest connection with God was in Adoration. One hour became an hour and twenty minutes. This became an hour and a half, which eventually led to two hours. Contemplation for two hours in front of the Eucharist was sublime.

There was one point during this 20-month discernment that I found out about the "Permanent Diaconate". Without this "calling" I had never, and I mean never, entertained the idea of being a priest. In fact, once I entered high school, I dialed back my mass attendance to funerals and weddings and Christmas and Easter.

I thought maybe this idea of being a Deacon could answer all my concerns. I didn't have to be a priest. I could serve in a lesser role and be free to live my life as I thought I could do. ... Well, He left me. He didn't strike me with a bolt of lightning or hit me with a boulder. He simply left. Silence. No Joy. Gone. It took me about two weeks to realize that His silence was His answer. Once I realized that His silence was His answer to me, I terminated my Permanent Diaconate plans. He slowly returned.

My discernment continued. During that time, I slowly became aware of what was expected of me. It wasn't going to be easy. I wasn't a young man. Most, actually all of my seminarian classmates, were going to be much younger than I. I describe myself as Pre-Vatican II. I received my first communion at a communion rail. I was confirmed at a communion rail. Mass was in Latin. I remember one Sunday at Mass I looked at the altar, and it was turned around and facing the congregation. As a young boy I didn't know what was happening. I think I

kind of liked it. In fact, I started attending the "Guitar Mass". Once I graduated grammar school, I lost interest and attended mass rarely.

I continued discerning this "Call to the Priesthood". Near the end of this 20-month period I tried to address all the things that were expected of me. I did not know I was nearing the end. I had no time limit. I thought the celibacy requirement was going to be the deal breaker. You see, I like girls. I dated a lot and during my life I had several "long-term" relationships. I appealed to The Blessed Mother. She came to my aid. Until today I can appreciate the beauty of a female. But that is where it ends.

Finally, at the end of this 20-month journey, I was exhausted. I had had enough. I thanked God for His interest in me, but decided it was over. No priesthood for me.

The next morning, I woke up and drove to church to attend morning mass. My morning routine included a stop at the statue of Our Lady of Fatima. She was on a shelf about "chin high" and I would kneel at the kneeler. There was a familiar looking kind of index card lying at her feet. I recognized it as one that we had gotten from our Cursillo weekend almost two years ago. It kind of laid out our promises to pray daily and attend Mass. The front of the card read "Christ Is Counting On You". I turned the card over and there was my signature. It was my card from 20 months ago.

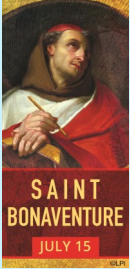
I called Fr. Peter Jarosz who had been my Pastor at Christ the King. We had a long talk. Then I called Fr. Jeff Stoneberg, who was my current Pastor at Christ the King. The next day Fr. Jeff came and sat down beside me in my pew waiting for morning mass to begin and he said, "I think it is time you called Burke". He meant Fr. Burke Masters, the head of vocations at that time. I did so and went through the entire review and interview process.

I was ordained a Catholic Priest on May 22, 2021.



FAITH FORMATION

June is the month we celebrate the most Holy Body and Blood of Christ on Corpus Christi Sunday, this year on June 7. May we be inspired by the following Saints:



"Lord Jesus Christ, pierce my soul with Your love so that I may always long for You alone, who are the bread of angels and the fulfillment of the soul's deepest desires. May my heart always hunger for You, so that my soul may be filled with the sweetness of Your presence." *St. Bonaventure*



"To make room in our life for the Eucharistic Lord, so that He can change our life into His-is that asking too much?" *St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross*



"The Eucharist is the sacrament of love; it signifies love; it produces love. Grant me O Lord my God, a mind to know you, a heart to seek you, wisdom to find you, conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance in waiting for you, and a hope of finally embracing you." *St. Thomas Aquinas*



"Our communal worship at Mass must go together with our personal worship of Jesus in Eucharistic adoration in order that our love may be complete." *Pope St. John Paul II*

SonSurf Beach Blast is the theme for our Vacation Bible School that is taking place June 8 to the 12 for all children ages 4 through grade 8. This will be an unforgettable week where kids will come to know the living Jesus who said: "I am the way the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14.6). Kids will learn that there is only one truth: Jesus! It will be a fun week with crafts, games, snacks, music, prayer and learning about our Catholic faith. If you haven't already registered, please do so.

As we go into what is normally a hot month of June and summer let us all pay attention to what we wear to Mass. We need to dress respectfully, and modesty must prevail. Back and shoulders should be covered and avoid low necklines, short dresses, short-shorts, etc. Parents please teach your children that dressing for Mass is not so much about external appearance but rather it reflects reverence for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and by dressing appropriately we honor God and set an example for others.

Our Lady at Fatima told some of the visionaries, "Certain fashions will be introduced that will offend Our Lord very much." And she also issued a direct warning to women saying: "Woe to women lacking in modesty." And also: "Let men avoid greed, lies, envy, blasphemy, and impurity." Our Lady lamented the sins of mankind urging Her children to turn away from sin and offer prayers, sacrifice and reparation to God.

Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us.

Nancy Siemers
Director of Faith Formation

HOLY GHOST CALENDAR

©LPI

Parent Baptism Meeting –June 2 at 7:00pm

Rosary in Church - June 4 at 7:00pm

First Friday Mass –June 5 at 8:30am

Baptisms –June 6 at 1:00pm

CCW Blood Pressure Screening – June 6 & 7 after all Masses

Corpus Christi Procession - June 7 after 10:30 mass

Vacation Bible School –June 8-12, 9am-12pm

Rosary in Church –June 11 at 7:00pm

2nd Collection CORE - June 13 & 14

CCW Blood Pressure Screening – June 13 & 14 after all Masses

KofC Rosary in Church –June 14 at 11:30am

CCW board meeting –June 16 at 7:00pm

Knights of Columbus Meeting –June 17 at 7:00pm

Rosary in Church –June 18 at 7:00pm

2nd Collection Infirm & Retired Priests - June 21 & 22

Rosary in Church –June 25 at 7:00pm

2nd Collection Peter's Pence - June 27 & 28

Wedding - June 27 at 1:00pm

*dates and times are subject to change. Please check the parish website for updated information or call the office.

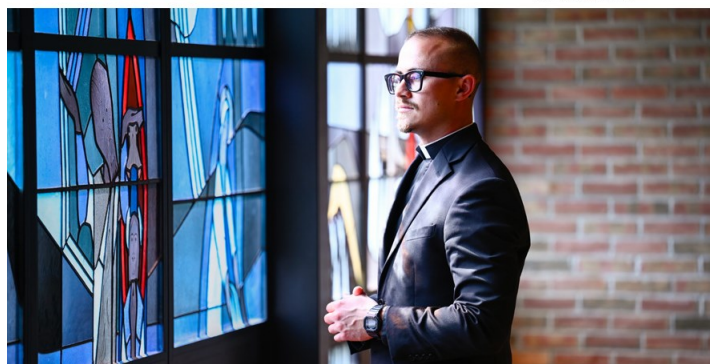


From pre-med to priesthood – one man's answer to God's call.

Joshua felt empty despite every worldly success. Through a community that prayed, encouraged, and walked with him, he discovered his calling. Now he's preparing for ordination in 2027. Your support through the CMAA helps form the future priests of our diocese.

"I finally knew what I was being called to do."

– Joshua



Watch the video and see the good your donation to the CMAA brings to our community

Upcoming Second Collections



Rainy day fund for repairs
C.O.R.E (Catholic Outreach)
Maintenance & Care of Worship Plants
Rainy day fund for repairs
Father's Day/Infirm & Retired Priest
Peter's Pence



Second collections can be made online at we share on our website holyghostparish.org or by scanning the QR code.



The Discipleship Team will be collating all of the parish surveys to help formulate a three year plan for the parish.

As part of the MAKE initiative, various members of the parish are writing their conversion experiences...the times they encountered God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit in their lives. Like the first disciples, they are sharing their stories of the Sacred. They will be printed weekly in the bulletin beginning on May 3rd beginning with Fr. Sam. As you read these encounters by members of our community, you may be inspired to share your story. May you find God at work in your life in the ordinary and extra-ordinary!

Please pray for the MAKE initiative in our Diocese and in our Parish:

Prayer to MAKE Disciples

Ever loving God, make of all good things, you made us in your image and called us through baptism.

Give us now the grace to be made into your disciples, and grant that in being so made, we will do as you commanded – to go and make other disciples as we catechize, evangelize, and put our faith into action. Through The intercession of our patron, St. Francis Xavier, St. Joseph, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and all the saints, we humbly make our prayer. Amen.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS®

Why Join? Protect Your Family

As a member of the Knights of Columbus, you get:

- Access to our top-quality portfolio of life insurance, long-term care insurance, disability income insurance, and annuity products, backed by ethical and Catholic business practices, exclusive for yourself, your spouse, and your dependent children
- A dedicated brother Knight field agent assigned to you and your family
- A complimentary, comprehensive annual financial review
- Free accidental death benefits up to \$5000 for you and your spouse

With a KC life insurance policy you get:

- Free death benefit of \$5000 on children stillborn or dying before age 61 days
- Guaranteed-issue insurability (up to \$10,000) for your children under age 19

• Upon your death:

- Free accidental death benefits up to \$5000 for your widow
- \$500 per month for each child up to the age of 19
- College scholarships up to \$5000 per year (\$20,000 maximum) for each child

Why wait?

Call Grand Knight Warren Wawczak 630-487-7925 or join online at <https://www.kofc.org/get-involved/join-kofc/>

Vacation Bible School

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We invite all children ages 4 years to 8th Grade to join us for Vacation Bible School **Monday, June 8th – Friday, June 12th, 2026 9:00AM-12:00 NOON.** We are looking forward to a fun, faith filled week with crafts, games, snacks, music and learning about our Catholic faith; and we are excited for your child(ren) to participate in SONSURF BEACH BLAST! As kids explore the wonders of the beach, they'll also discover the Big Answers to their Big Questions about Jesus. Five life-changing Bible verses—including John 14:6—will help them understand who Jesus is and why they need Him. At SonSurf Beach Blast VBS, kids learn that there is only one truth: Jesus!

It will be \$35 per child for the week. There are forms in the vestibules, the parish office or call Nancy Siemers (630) 766-4509 to register.

WITH JOYFUL HEARTS,
WE WELCOME OUR
NEWLY BAPTIZED.

TOMAS ANGEL GARZA III
ELIZA ROSE SAUCEDO

WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY

IN LOVING
MEMORY

DEARLY DEPARTED

SHIRLEY MAE DE PASQUE
4/28/1933-4/17/2026

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and may the perpetual light shine upon
them. May the souls of all the faithful
departed, through the mercy of
God, rest in peace.



NEWLY MARRIED

Melanie & Paul Ortega
4/25/2026

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,
I believe that You are present
in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.



Mass Intention Information
\$10 stipend per Mass Intention.

Mass Intention requests, in compliance
with the Decree on Mass Stipends, began on
January 1, 2016: There will be one intention
for a Mass. Mass will be offered for all
parishioners in the parish on Christmas Eve,
Christmas Day, Holy Thursday, Easter Vigil,
Easter Sunday, and Holy Days of Obligation.
No other intentions will be taken
for the Masses on these days.

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

4 pm Saturday
8 am Sunday
10:30 am Sunday

DAILY MASS

8:30 am Mon-Thurs

FIRST FRIDAY

8:30 am



PLEASE JOIN
THE KNIGHTS OF
COLUMBUS
TO PRAY THE ROSARY
AFTER THE 10:30 AM
MASS ON SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2026



PLEASE JOIN US
TO PRAY THE ROSARY
MONDAY THROUGH
THURSDAY
AT 9 AM AND ON
THURSDAY
EVENINGS AT 7PM.

Lord, we ask you to bless all those who
serve; grant your heavenly protection to
these brave men and women. Please give
them and their loved ones strength and
peace. Amen.

AIR FORCE:

LT COL Anthony Calabrese
LT COL Patty Calabrese
MAJ Mary Dones
CAPT Joseph Piscopo
MAJ Jeremy Shimaneck
1st LT Joshua Jalowiec
SSGT Robert W. Dones
SSGT Timothy Latvis
SRA Randall Petrbock
A1C Ryan Leider
A1C Nicholas Pfeifer
A2C James Kochanski III

ARMY:

LTC Robert Bowen
LTC Grace Gallagher
CAPT Elizabeth Gonzales
SFC Zack Cieslak
SPC Marco Garcia
SPC David Patcher
CW4 Anderson Mann
CW2 Carlos Contreras
PVT Steven Badgley
PVT Ian Schauchuk

MARINE CORPS:

CAPT Edward W. Miller
SGT Nicholas Reid
SGT Jack Rowley
LCPL Michele Giuseppe Bottalico
LCPL Vincent Anthony Eltman
PVT Cameron Andresen
PVT Gabriel Leon
PVT Billy Termine
SGT Jeremy Ames

NAVY:

LCDR Nicholas Lucania
Ryan James Ruizol
CTT2 Kurtis Ames

**LET US PRAY FOR THE SICK
OF OUR PARISH**

Cathy Alcozer
Bianca Marie Borowski
Michael Brann
Micah Casey
Ron Catalano
Ady DeLargarza
Aldegunda Diego
Thomas Franzen
Izcoatl Garcia Gonzales
Mike Kaiser
Sarah Kasab
Jerad Klint
Therese Kotecki
Michael Malek
Jose Joaquin Negrete Paz
Cindi Shea
Frank Staggs
Holly Staggs
Nancy Townsend
Larry Venere
Feliciano Vero
Gloria Villanueva
Salvatore Vivo
Joe Vocino
Matt Vocino
James Wilk
Phil Yanez
Joseph Yello
Cyndi Zwadlo

**And for those listed in our parish
book of prayers.**

Military and Prayer List

Please email:
hgbulletin@holyghostparish.org
or call the parish office at 630-860-2975
to add or remove a name from the list.
Thank you!

Father's Day
Blessing

Gracious God and
Father, our first
father, You are the
One who has
brought us to life in
this world you
created. You
created us and
everything around us. We turned away
from you
and only after disappointing you did we
return your love.



Look with favor on our earthly fathers.
They helped create us in your image.
We have disappointed them,
but have come to realize just how
important they are to us.

Bless all our fathers, living and deceased,
with comfort and health.
We bring all their needs to you
and ask for strength so they may live
worthy lives.

We ask all this in the name of your Son,
our model of what it means to reverence
our fathers.
In Christ's name.
Amen.



Every gift card you purchase from the SCRIP program benefits Holy Ghost with no additional cost to you. Skip the mall, save your gas and your mileage by buying SCRIP!

We carry hundreds of stores, and we also have VISA gift cards with NO ACTIVATION FEE! There are order forms in the vestibules of the church or stop by the parish office.

For more information call the parish office at 630-860-2975 or email: hgsecretary@holyghostparish.org



You can buy online at <https://www.raiseright.com/enroll/> and use enrollment Code: 59555D1L5432

Never Miss Our Bulletin!

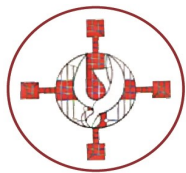
Have it emailed to you automatically every week.

1

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2

Click the  **Subscribe** button on our parish page.



Becoming Catholic and Sacramental Preparation for Adults (OCIA)

Life is not a single path for all people. Often, we learn to respond to God's call to us to share life with Him later in life. While we may have been baptized as an infant, our families didn't invite us to receive The Eucharist or the Sacrament of Confirmation at the usual times. But there is a path to receiving all these sacraments validly within your parish community.

What is the process? What is OCIA?

OCIA (formerly RCIA) stands for *The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*. It is the process by which those who wish to join the Catholic faith pray, study beliefs and traditions, and participate in Christian community and discipleship in preparation for the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and/or First Holy Communion. The Sacraments give us a new identity in Christ, and a vocation to live as His witnesses.

Who is OCIA for?

- Those who want to become Catholic
- Adults and children ages seven and older who are not baptized
- Anyone baptized in another Christian church who wishes to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church
- Adults who were baptized in the Catholic church who wish to complete their initiation (seeking both Confirmation and first Holy Communion)

What if I'm an adult seeking Confirmation only?

If you were baptized Catholic and have already received your First Holy Communion, we can prepare you for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Adult Classes begin every September. If you are an adult needing any or all the sacraments or know of an adult who does, please contact Nancy at the Faith Formation office, 630-766-4509 or email her at nsiemers@holyghostparish.org for more information.