



New Members to our Parish Community



Our newest additions with their sponsors, family and RCIA team member at the Rite of Election.

Top Row Extreme Right - Darren

Bottom Row (Left to Right) - Mimi, Lumian, Nimesha (behind Lumian), Damayantha, Archbishop Comensoli, Teri, Bowen

Their RCIA journey commenced on July 25, 2023. Since then, these dedicated individuals have faithfully gathered weekly to deepen their understanding of our faith and embrace their journey into our Parish Community. As they prepare to receive their Sacraments of Initiation this coming Easter in 2024, they graciously share their reflections on this experience:

The RCIA process in my opinion was a great process in solidifying the journey of my faith in Christ. This journey taught me the details in regards to the aspects of devotion and worship that I did not know since the individual process and research I did myself took me from atheism to theism to Christianity, but the RCIA process taught me the beautiful reasons why we venerate, devote and worship the love of Christ and how the One True Holy Church has many practices that furthers these aspects and strengthens our faith. - **Bowen Xu**

It gave me a chance to get a deeper understanding of the Catholic religion to learn the importance of faith and prayer to people in many walks of life. It also gave me a chance to understand who I am and what I believe and why I believe. 🙏🙏 - **Damayantha (Dammi)**

My RCIA experience has been an amazing journey learning about the Catholic faith with our wonderful RCIA team and my fellow candidates. I am very excited to be reaching the confirmation stage this Easter to become a follower of God in the Catholic Church. - **Darren Fraser**

I was encouraged to join the RCIA by my husband. I come from a Lutheran background, married my Catholic husband and decided to convert to Catholicism. I thought that attending mass will be enough as I still had some doubt in my mind. Seeing people's joy after they receive communion removed that doubt. Then my husband encouraged me again to join RCIA program. This helped me to clarify the commitment I am making at Easter.

Joining the RCIA, I felt refreshed and gained more understanding through the Gospel. This helped me to clarify any doubts that I had. I also discovered new valued friendship with the RCIA family. Big thanks and applause to the RCIA team for the wonderful journey, hopefully we can retain the depth of our friendship as we deepen our faith together through the life and spirit in St James Parish. And hopefully next time there will be women in the team - **Lumian**

I started my faith journey as a non-believer, but the RCIA has been a profoundly transformative journey for me.

This journey provided me with a deep understanding of the Catholic faith and its rich traditions. Through our weekly sharing, conversations, and prayers I gained insights into the core beliefs, and teachings of Jesus through the gospels and deepened my spiritual well-being, helping me connect with God on a profound level. Each step of the RCIA journey was instilled with spiritual significance and meaning, from participating in the Rite of Elections, the Scrutinies, through to receiving the Sacraments.

These experiences helped me to grow in my relationship with God and to develop a deeper sense of belonging to the Church community.

I am grateful for the unwavering support of the Church community, as well as the guidance and encouragement provided by sponsors and the RCIA team throughout this journey. Their presence has been instrumental in helping me feel supported and uplifted, particularly during moments of doubt or uncertainty.

Overall, the RCIA process has been a life-changing experience for me. I am grateful to have participated in this journey and look forward to growing in my faith as I live out the teachings of Jesus in my daily life. - **Mimi Phung**

Although I do not come from a catholic background, I had some feelings and trust in Jesus Christ from my catholic friends who supported me. But after joining the RCIA program, I have been able to feel more in touch with God, Jesus and the church. The RCIA team helped me to learn about what the church teaches, and it's been a spiritual journey for me to go through this. Now I feel that Jesus Christ the Lord, and the Catholic Church are very much alive and well.

Being a Catholic is not always easy or comfortable, but I feel called by God to be here today. Being a Catholic is the most important phase of my life. - **Nimesha**

The RCIA process has given me a profound purpose of self discovery and it's taught me to reignite my Christian faith in God. Through the RCIA program, I've learned the true meaning of the scrutinies and the Stations of the Cross. The RCIA team helped guide us to form our own relationship with God through prayers and learnings from the Bible.

My Christian faith journey continues as a Catholic and I am so thankful for the support of my family, the ongoing prayers and support of the dedicated RCIA team, Fathers Jude and John, my fellow Catechumens and Candidates, my sponsor (my daughter Jessica) and grandson Valentino whose baptism last year prompted me to make this commitment to the Catholic Church.

To God be the Glory! - **Teri**