

## PASTOR'S COLUMN

This week's Pastor's Column promotes two sacramental opportunities in our parish:

### Joining the Catholic Faith

Do you know an unbaptized person who is interested in becoming a Catholic? Do you know a baptized member of another Christian denomination who wants to join the Catholic Church? Do you know a baptized-but-not confirmed Catholic who desires to become a fully initiated member of the Catholic Church? Adult Faith Formation for all such individuals will begin in our parish in September.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process for an unbaptized adult or a baptized adult member of another Christian denomination to enter the Catholic Church. The process entails prayer, worship and study. Although each person's timeline through RCIA is unique, the process begins in September and generally ends at the Parish Easter Vigil on April 20, 2019, with a post-Easter time of growing deeper in the faith. For an explanation of how RCIA works, see the U.S. Bishop's website at <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/who-we-teach/rite-of-christian-initiation-of-adults/>.

For baptized Catholic adults who are not confirmed but desire to receive the sacrament of Confirmation and become a fully initiated Catholic, the process of preparation also involves prayer, worship and study. It begins in the Fall and ends with the Sacrament of Confirmation conferred by the Archbishop at St. Louis Cathedral on Pentecost Sunday, June 9, 2019.

We have several prospective candidates for RCIA and Adult Confirmation. If you or anyone you know is interested in making this journey, contact our Director of Religious Education, Claudia Todaro, at 834-0348 or our office at 8340340.

Additional Time for Sacrament of Reconciliation Jesus entrusted the ministry of reconciling sins to the Church through the apostles: "Receive the Holy Spirit; whose sins you forgive are forgiven" (John 20:23). The Sacrament of Reconciliation is the means by which sins are absolved and friendship with God and the community of faith is restored. At present, our parish offers a number of opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, including 7:45 A.M. Monday through Saturday, after the 8:00 A.M. mass on Saturday, at 5:00 P.M. on Saturday (after the Vigil Mass), or by appointment. Beginning Saturday, September 14, we will have an additional opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Confessions will be heard from 3:00-3:45 P.M. on Saturday, ahead of the 4:00 P.M. Mass. Confessions will end promptly at 3:45 P.M. to allow the priest adequate time to prepare for Mass. Confessions will resume after the Vigil Mass ends until they are complete.

Please help us spread the word about this additional opportunity to receive the sacramental grace of God's reconciliation and healing.

Happy Labor Day.

God bless you. Fr. Joe