

Congratulations on your decision to experience lasting Joy that living the challenge “Pilgrims on the Journey” home to God brings a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Welcome!



The journey you are beginning will lead you on the path as a disciple of Jesus Christ who deeply desires and is actively pursuing a *growing, intense, faithful* relationship with God under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. In this pursuit you will learn what it means to *Love God, Love Neighbor and Make other Disciples* while experiencing a *continual* positive transformation in your life that creates a need to help, support and share this with others.

“**Pilgrims on the Journey**” describes our destination in life. Regardless of the challenges faced by focusing on the goal of successfully arriving on the path home to God, a disciple of Jesus who submits every aspect of their life to God will experience a joy for living and a deepening of their trust in His love. Guided by the Holy Spirit they learn wisdom and joy. They begin to understand that pursuing the enticing distractions the world brings them will never fill them with the peace, love, hope and joy their hearts beg for.

Take action now:

As a Pilgrim on the Journey, parishioners find they can say with conviction: “I know what the purpose of my life is. I know where I’m going, I know how to get there and I want to share it with others”: **I am a disciple of Jesus Christ learning to be on fire for God and his holy Catholic Church through the power of the Holy Spirit while living as a “Pilgrim on the Journey” home to God.**

Getting started on the right foot.

This guide is meant to be used with the assistance of a disciples Partner who has already started as a “Pilgrim on the Journey” home to God. You may continue to use this guide as a self help tool, however this journey is meant to be experienced not just as an individual but as a community of believers. Our recommendation is you should seek out a disciples Partner who will share this journey with you.

God through Jesus Christ has revealed through the Holy Spirit the rock solid foundation we need to discover for living as “**Pilgrims on the Journey” home to God!**

Make it your goal to discover who God really is and the surprising things hidden from you - until now! Resolve to make a break from the continuous bombardment of distractions the world entices us to follow. Begin your journey today and take action daily on the following pages.

For help or questions about any of the information here, call 978 342-2978 ext 156 or email JourneyAsPilgrims@gmail.com with your request that a disciples *Partner* should contact you.

**Recommended sequence of actions to take
when starting your Journey**

Begin to fill your mind with the truths of your Catholic faith as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Consciously seek excellent Catholic radio, TV and other media. Reduce the effect from the constant bombardment of distractions we face everyday. Fill your mind with the truths of your Catholic faith and your walk as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

**1. Using the following scripture, confirm in your mind that
you are a disciple of Jesus Christ****John 3: 16**

¹⁶ For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son^[c] so that anyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it. ¹⁸ “There is no eternal doom awaiting those who trust him to save them. But those who don’t trust him have already been tried and condemned for not believing in the only Son of God.

John 10: 10

⁹ Yes, I am the Gate. Those who come in by way of the Gate will be saved and will go in and out and find green pastures. ¹⁰ The thief’s purpose is to steal, kill and destroy. My purpose is to give life in all its fullness.

Romans 3: 23

And we all can be saved in this same way, by coming to Christ, no matter who we are or what we have been like. ²³ Yes, all have sinned; all fall short of God’s glorious ideal; ²⁴ yet now God declares us “not guilty” of offending him if we trust in Jesus Christ, who in his kindness freely takes away our sins.

Romans 6: 23

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

John 14: 6

“I am the Way—yes, and the Truth and the Life. No one can get to the Father except by means of me.

John 1: 12

But to all who received him, he gave the right to become children of God. All they needed to do was to trust him to save them.

Ephesians 2: 8

Because of his kindness, you have been saved through trusting Christ. And even trusting is not of yourselves; it too is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good we have done, so none of us can take any credit for it. ¹⁰ It is God himself who has made us what we are and given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and long ages ago he planned that we should spend these lives in helping others.

Your Baptism and Confirmation outwardly affirm these scriptures to the world that you are a disciple of Jesus Christ. As an adult perhaps now is good time to internally affirm these scriptures to eliminate any doubt you may have about being a disciple of Jesus Christ.

2. Use Catholic Media

Every day let Catholic radio and T/V help you and your family discover and learn the truth about how God and your Church want to help you live and share your passion for living.

Listen on radio in your car or at home:

EWTN radio 89.3 fm Fitchburg, am 1060 Boston or am 1230 Worcester area.

Watch on T/V:

EWTN TV: Comcast: 238 Verizon: 285; *Catholic TV:* Comcast: 268 Verizon: 296.

When you need the truth about current events in the Catholic church:

Internet: 2 Catholic web sites for us to use as good resources for our faith are: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) <http://www.usccb.org> or EWTN <https://www.ewtn.com/faith/teachings/index.asp>

When you need a continuing overview of what your Catholic church is really doing in the world:

Use Catholic newspapers that give you the truth about what is happening in our world today: Catholic Free Press, National Catholic Register and Our Sunday Visitor are good sources of information.

3. A Lifetime Of Scripture

Scripture: You can't serve God if you don't know Him. Reading and putting Scripture into action is a primary step needed to Know God!

Start with the New Testament: read 2 chapters a day (approximately 10 minutes): one chapter starting with Mathew and one chapter starting with Acts. Using this method will solidify what Jesus said in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John and with Acts through Revelation which show how the Apostles put Jesus words into action after He ascended to heaven.

When studying scripture: remember – *don't worry* about what you don't understand, just put into action what you do understand and live your life as God's Spirit reveals to you. The harder things to understand will clear up as you continue on Your Journey. You are a "Pilgrim on the Journey" home to God. The journey starts now and continues when you pass to the next life.

Also remember to begin a study of the *Old Testament*. Think about what Saint Augustine said: "The New Testament lies hidden in the Old, and the Old Testament is unveiled in the New." This is why we need to make an effort to know both because Scripture is God's revelation to us about how to enter into and deepen our relationship with Him.

Mother Teresa and her sister's lived by these words about scripture: "**Know the Word, Love the Word, Live the Word and Give the Word.**"

4. Experience Catholic Community

Reconciliation: For Catholics who've received the sacraments of initiation, Reconciliation is key to restoring a broken or building a *growing, intense, faithful* relationship with God. Reconciliation has the power to reopen the channel of grace from God when a Catholic has knowingly committed sin (taken an action which is opposite what God has revealed through Scripture, the Catechism or other Teachings of the Church). Make sure you go at least every 3 months. Reconciliation not only makes us right with God because of serious sin we may have fallen into but it also gives us the benefit of dealing with those pesky, recurring faults we need to control like anger, selfishness, fault finding, use of coarse language or jokes, lack of patience, envy, etc. so the Holy Spirit can use our lives to project a clear image of what a Catholic Christian is all about.

If going to a parish priest makes you uncomfortable then consider receiving this sacrament at another parish.

For additional information: <http://www.catholicscomehome.org/what-is-the-sacrament-of-confession/>

Attendance At Mass: start your own inquiry to understand the parts of the Mass so when you attend you'll be more focused on why Jesus gave us this gift of remembrance and the meaning of what is happening. You'll find you have fewer distractions and you're not in a great hurry to get to whatever is occurring after Mass.

Review Msgr Mongelluso 4 part video presentation: Understanding the Mass: click the following: <http://www.ourladylake.org/understanding-the-mass>

To read about the various parts of the Mass: click the following: <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/The-Mass/order-of-mass/index.cfm>

Receiving the Holy Eucharist: The Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Jesus. John 6: 47-58, John 22: 14-20, 1 Cor. 10: 14-16, 1 Cor. 11: 26-33. Understanding these truths will keep you wrapped in reverence when you receive this sacrament. Additional help to understand this gift to us: click either of the following web sites <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/order-of-mass/liturgy-of-the-eucharist/index.cfm> or <https://www.ewtn.com/faith/teachings/euchmenu.htm>

Pillar of Fire, Pillar of Truth : Understand your Catholic Faith in a 32 page booklet or pdf file. This is a must reading for every Catholic who's seriously building a growing relationship with God. With this guide any Catholic can grasp the full meaning of who they are and become knowledgeable in this resource they can pass on to others to help them become better Catholics.

Attend Special Parish Events: These events reinforce *you are not alone* on this Journey home to God. God made us to share his gifts of time, talent and treasure with others. God made us to live as a community of believers of Jesus Christ, not cave dwellers just fending for ourselves. Take advantage of the many programs and ministries the Holy Spirit will call you to. Participate as much as your time allows.

5. Listening With The Ear Of Your Heart

Prayer: – letting God speak to you. If we are honest, most of the praying we do is “God please give me” prayers. Perhaps our prayers need to contain more: “what do you want of my life, make your path known to me” and then look for the answers. Don’t forget to put in few Thank You’s also! Participate in the greatest celebration of prayer to God – attend Mass!

The Catechism – supports *Scripture* and **Scripture** supports the *Catechism* and both demonstrate the basis for our Catholic Faith. The entire Catechism is on line at: <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catechism/catechism-of-the-catholic-church/epub/index.cfm>

The Creed This Our Catholic belief. All of us should have it memorized and have a thorough understanding of the truth it speaks We should review it daily! Our Catholic belief is clearly expressed in this profession of faith called the *Nicene Creed*. The entire creed is on line at: <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/index.cfm>

Are you ready for your “first steps” final exam: 1 Cor. 12: 3. If you can sincerely say Jesus Christ is Lord” you’re ready to move on to deepen your faith as a disciple *on fire* for God.

Your next step is to call 978 342-2978 ext 0 or email JourneyAsPilgrims@gmail.com with your request that a disciples *Partner* should contact you to help you develop your personalized Spiritual Growth Plan that will be used as your guide for the rest of your travel as a “Pilgrim on the Journey” home to God.