

by Donny Wimberley

St. Laurence is very blessed to have such an amazing RCIA program; the coordinator, team leaders, my sponsor and fellow RCIA participants, were all instrumental in my journey to be baptized and confirmed in the Catholic faith. The whole RCIA process was so rich; I discovered new ways to read, interpret, reflect upon and understand the Gospel through the eyes of the church. Through our lessons and group discussions, I learned how to apply the teachings of Jesus Christ to my everyday life and to look for and recognize the presence of God in my life at all times, not just while in church. One of the most important messages I received from RCIA is that the journey of faith can begin at any time and does not end with baptism/confirmation...it is a life-long journey.



I have so many great memories of my RCIA experience and have made some wonderful friendships that no doubt will continue to grow. RCIA met on Sundays after 9:00 a.m. mass, and we were always welcomed with an incredible spread of breakfast items to feast on. We had awesome speakers and class was never boring but instead interactive. I would return home after each RCIA session to discuss that morning's topic with my cradle Catholic wife, and to be truthful on more than one occasion, I think I actually taught her about the Catholic faith. I am so grateful for Pat Kerlin as well as the many volunteers who dedicate their time and talent to the RCIA ministry.

By far, the most memorable experience I had during RCIA was during Easter Vigil; right after Fr. Drew baptized me, my two week old daughter, Vada Vivian, was placed in my arms and baptized...the Holy Spirit's overwhelming love that rained down on me that night has forever left an indelible mark on my heart and soul. Simply put, this was one of the proudest moments of my life and I will forever carry this memory. Through the RCIA process I have developed a spirituality I did not believe I was capable of possessing. This program has helped me form a closer and more meaningful relationship with God, my family and my friends. St. Laurence has done a wonderful job with RCIA; it has truly blessed my life.