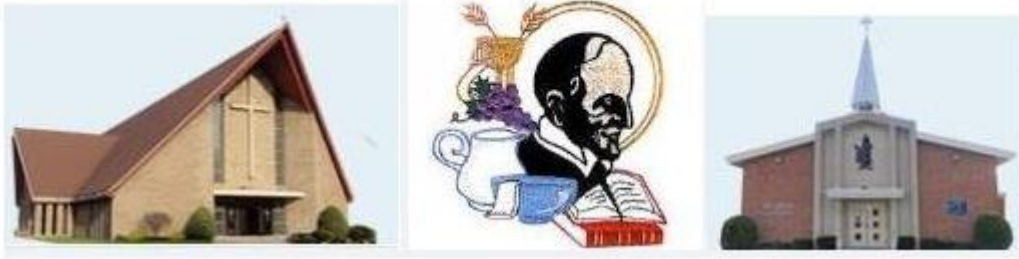


St. Vincent de Paul Parish



STAYING CONNECTED

From the desk of Mrs. Pat DeVantier, Adult Formation Coordinator.

Ph. (716) 297-5010, ext. 207. Office hours: Monday & Wednesday: 9:00am – 3:00pm.

Or email to: svdprciadevantier@yahoo.com.

Hello,

Welcome to our very first newsletter – *which is about and for YOU!*

Whether you have completed your Sacraments of Initiation by receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation or have entered the faith as an adult, we invite you to read this newsletter, respond with your thoughts on being Catholic, and share your ideas for future newsletters, or anything!

Really, we want to hear from you!

Some of you have gone through the RCIA or Adult Confirmation process a while ago. Our process has changed in many ways; our doors are always opened to you to attend our sessions. Come, see and share your story with those currently going through the process. Your sharing or just being there for moral support will help them feel at ease and comfortable in their journey. No matter what your experience, someone can relate!

In this newsletter we will ask for your comments on our Adult Formation groups of RCIA and Adult Confirmation, share with you some happy news, Parish Announcements, Testimonials, and a Spiritual Reflection.

You can also find out more on our Parish website at: <http://www.svdparish.org>. Just click on “Adult Formation.”

As you have travelled this journey of faith, what are some of the things, people, and places that have influenced your faith?

What do you now seek in your spiritual journey?

How important is God and His Church to you now?

What new avenues of spirituality are you focusing on now?

We want to hear from you. Why? Your thoughts and experiences will make our Adult Faith Formation processes even better. You are like the tiny mustard seed that takes root and grows into a large tree, attracting numerous birds who love to nest and eat of the tree's little black mustard seed it produces. So please take a few moments to respond to these questions and send comments about anything that could help those seeking the faith. Keep us posted on what is happening with you, we really want to hear from you.

St. Vincent de Paul RCIA Inquirer Sessions for Spring/Summer 2015

(All sessions are Wednesdays, 6:00pm – 7:00pm)

Date / Scripture / Focus

July 29; Acts 2:39-47; The Church

Aug. 12; Deut. 30:11-20; Freedom & Choosing

Aug. 26; John 20:19-29; Conversion

NOTE: Fall Inquiry and Catechumenate sessions begin Wed., Sept. 16, 6:30pm – 8:30pm

What would you like to see changed in RCIA & Adult Confirmation Sessions?

- More videos
 - More discussion
 - Nothing - wouldn't change a thing
 - Something else (please email us)
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Special Announcement: Ashley Winters gave birth to a daughter – Emma Rose on June 4th. She weighed 7 pounds & 11 ounces. Ashley entered the Catholic Faith this past Easter Vigil after participating in RCIA.



Announcements:

- 1) Parish Picnic, August 16th at the Parish Center.
 - 2) A new Bible Study series will begin in late September.
 - 3) The Spiritual Life Committee will be hosting *Quiet Water's Rosary Musical "Live" Mysteries of Light*, Wednesday, October 14th at the Parish.
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Testimonial: I went to St. Vincent de Paul Parish to find out how to be confirmed. I was welcomed and felt a great relief at how nice everyone was. Sessions were set up in which I attended, and was Confirmed as an adult. During this time I was seeking God, and to explain what happened this says it all: Deuteronomy 4:29, 'Yet there to you shall seek the Lord, your God, and you shall indeed find Him when you search after Him with your whole heart and soul.' Michelle, Confirmed in 2014

Testimonial: I joined RCIA in 2012 and was accepted into the Catholic Faith during the 2013 Easter Vigil. My experiences with RCIA were both great and surprising.

The great part was everyone was helpful; there was never a question that didn't get answered. The surprising aspect was I thought RCIA would be all Scripture study. As I learned, Catholics venerate *both* Scripture and The Sacraments. The most important Sacrament I learned about – and is the key to our Faith – is The Eucharist.

At first I had a tough time accepting that Communion is not just a symbolic ritual, but that Jesus really exists in "The Body of Christ" and "The Blood of Christ." After thinking it through, it became clear to me that if God created the universe and everything in it, and if Jesus could heal people and raise them from the dead, then if Jesus desires to be really present in Communion then He is!

After becoming Catholic I was invited to become an RCIA Leader. I worried that my knowledge wasn't deep enough to help people. But it was explained to me that since I had been both an atheist and an agnostic during my life, perhaps I could reach out to people who are skeptical of God and the Catholic Faith. Since becoming an RCIA Leader my knowledge – and faith – has grown by interacting with other Catholics.

The best reason to attend an RCIA session is your closeness to God and His Community will grow!
Terry, Confirmed in 2013

Spiritual Reflection: In the last several weeks we heard in the Sunday Gospels of the disciples of Jesus following Him; Jesus giving the twelve authority over the unclean spirits, and the twelve telling Jesus of everything good they have done in His name. At one point Jesus said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." However the crowds saw them and pursued them like sheep without a shepherd. Soon came the reading of the Multiplication of the Loaves and the Fish-**faith food**, with a continuation of the crowds seeking Jesus. They longed for Him, The Bread of Life – The One who brings Eternal Life.

Let us during these remaining days of summer take time to reflect on these encounters with Jesus. How are we following Him today and in everyday life? Have we had opportunities to reach out and touch someone's life with a healing word of encouragement, compassion and love? Have we yet to take the time to come away and rest a while from our busy everyday tasks, to enjoy nature in its full beauty and radiance? Have we had time to share our time, treasure, or talent?

Faith is a beautiful thing; it is all around. Live it, express it, and enjoy it.

Most importantly, thank God for it!

God's blessings and peace be yours today.

Pat DeVantier and the RCIA Leaders

