

# CALLED HOME TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH



This has been a joyful and abundant year for OCIA in our parish. From the beginning of January, there was a clear sense of light and vibrance as men and women began inquiring about the Catholic faith. We saw another rise in interest in late April and early May, and again as fall began. In all of this, we recognize the gentle and steady work of the Holy Spirit.

During this past year, the Church also marked a time of great transition. We continue to pray for the repose of the soul of Pope Francis, who died on April 21, 2025, and for all the popes who have gone before him. We also pray for our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, elected in May 2025, as he nears the completion of his first year as shepherd of the Church.

Enclosed are the members of our OCIA class who will enter the Church this Easter season. Each has shared a short biography. Please continue to pray for these wonderful new members of our parish family, and also for those still discerning or continuing their journey toward full initiation.

What a blessing this moment is for our parish. May God be with each of them, and with all of us, as we walk together in Christ.

Please pray for each of our Catechumens and Candidates during this Easter Season and Always!

**God is good.**

*Maria*

Maria has been married to Garry for 36 years, have 2 children: Margaret and Anna. Margaret is a college professor in Maryland, and Anna teaches 1st grade in Berkeley County, WV. I am a retired educator, and my husband is a retired federal employee. Originally from Colorado, I have lived in West Virginia since 1993.



*Keli*

Keli has been married to her high school sweetheart, Jack, since 2003, and they have two adult children and one grandchild. She is quietly looking forward to becoming a vibrant member of St. Bernadette Parish. Please keep Keli and her family in your prayers, just as she will be praying for her new parish community. Keli's Patron Saint is St. Bernadette.





*Cliff* and his son **Grayson**

Grayson and I started this journey last year in finding a church. We fell in love with St. Bernadette's immediately. We live local off of Back Creek Valley Road. Grayson thinks the world of Father Boh, enjoys seeing him, and giving him a big hug at the end of Mass. We are both thankful for the kindness and support we've received from the parish.

*James & Nikki*

James and Nikki have been married for 11 years. James was originally raised in Rhode Island and met Nikki when he moved to Virginia as a teenager. They met in a club for Christian youth in 2003 and have been close ever since. Their jobs brought them

to West Virginia in 2018, where they reside with their pet rabbits. James and Nikki enjoy traveling the world together and were drawn to Catholicism after having moving experiences at religious sites. They would welcome prayer intentions for good health and to grow their family with children.



*Michelle* and *Kevin* with daughter *Holly Noelle*

Our family recently had the opportunity to join the Catholic Church through the OCIA. While attending classes, we were also blessed to welcome our baby, making this journey even more meaningful to us. We are so grateful to be a part of such a supportive parish and look forward to growing in faith and community.



## *Foubi Family Story*



The Foubi family, a family of six led by Ernest and Vanessa and supported by grandmother Clautide Mafeuki, is deeply rooted in the Catholic faith and joyfully growing together through their OCIA journey. Blessed with four children—Marc Adryan, Darel Samuel, Chloe Bouguia, and Leo Talla—the family carries forward a strong spiritual heritage, notably with Ernest's older brother, Father Jean-Jules Chassen, who has faithfully served as a priest in Cameroon for over 25 years. This Easter marks a profound milestone: Marc Adryan will receive First Communion and Confirmation; Darel Samuel and Chloe will receive Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation; and little Leo will be welcomed into the Church through Baptism. With gratitude and hope, the Foubi family humbly asks for prayers as they continue to deepen their faith, strengthen their unity, and walk ever closer with Christ.



Marc



Darel



Chloe



Leo



## *Fabrice & Claudelle*

### **Daniel & Madeleine**

This Easter, our family is experiencing the joy of new beginnings. Claudelle's journey to bringing Madeleine and Daniel to their preparation class has been for Her a reconciliation with God's love in their daily lives and desiring to root her home in faith. She relearns how to pray, how to love God and all his creations. This experience was amazing.



## *Brian & Tera* and son *Liam*

Brian and Tera, along with their son Liam-James, are a joyful family walking together in faith. Married in 2022, they welcomed their son Liam-James in 2023. Originally from the Washington, DC area, they moved to the peaceful hills of Hedgesville seeking a simpler life rooted in community and prayer. As Tera continues her journey in OCIA, they are grateful for God's guiding hand in every step of their marriage, parenthood, and new chapter.

## *Austin*

**Austin Hamilton, recently moved from Texas and finally getting confirmed after seeking the faith for four years.**

**Patron Saint: Saint Michael**

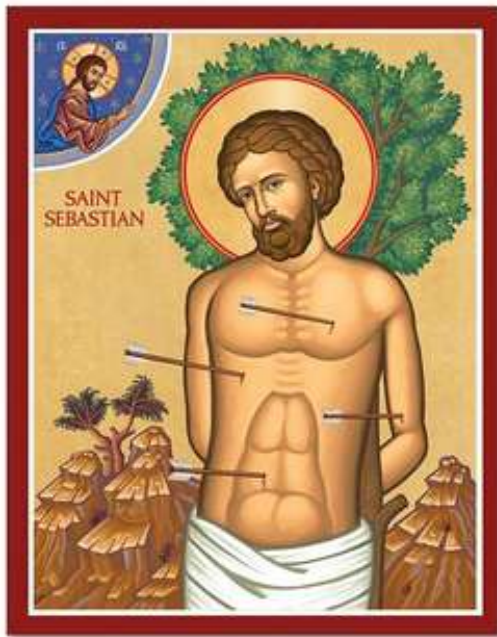


## *Joel & Danielle*

Joel, a former protestant, is being received into the Catholic church, drawn by its rich tradition and connection with Christ. In his free time, he finds peace and patience caring for his collection of bonsai trees and cooking.

Danielle, a former Catholic returning to the church, is rediscovering the beauty of the faith she once knew. She's an avid reader, enjoys theater and music, and is a lover of all animals.

Joel and Danielle were married in 2023 and have a dog, two cats, and a bearded dragon. They look forward to becoming active members of their parish and one day hope to welcome children into their family.



*Brandon & Lety* with daughter *Scarlett* &  
& *little one on the way!*

Brandon is preparing to enter the Catholic Church, encouraged by the love of his life, Lety, and drawn toward the faith she has always called home. Together they share their daughter, Scarlett, and are also expecting another baby in May. On Divine Mercy Sunday, they will receive the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, and the following Sunday Brandon will complete his Sacraments of Initiation. Please pray for God's abundant blessings upon their growing family and upon this joyful season of grace in their lives.



*Mikayla* with fiancé *Damon*

I am so grateful for my spiritual journey through OCIA which has led me to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. I could not be more thankful for the continuous prayers from the parishioners of St. Bernadette, and for the love and support of my fiancé, family and friends, and my OCIA class who have encouraged me along the way.



## *Kapree* & **KRUZ**

**Kapree** is a young woman preparing with great joy to receive Baptism and Confirmation this Easter at St. Bernadette Parish. She truly lights up when speaking about Our Lady. Kapree is especially drawn to the strength and faithfulness of Our Lady of Sorrows. Kapree desires to live the way God calls her to live and to deepen her relationship with Him through prayer, Scripture, and the life of the Church. She and her brother are also blessed with strong Catholic support stretching from Miami to Hedgesville. Please keep Kapree in your prayers as she takes this important step in her journey with Christ.



**Kruz** is a young man with a growing love for Jesus and a sincere desire to live his Catholic faith. He attends Hedgesville Middle School and has been on fire for the Lord since attending the Confirmation Retreat led by SENT Ministries of Franciscan University in Steubenville.

Inspired by St. Carlo Acutis, Kruz is looking forward to growing closer to God through prayer, Scripture, and life in the Church. Please keep Kruz in your prayers as he continues this joyful step in his faith journey.



*Tiffany* with her husband *Rory*

**Follower of Christ, lover of friends, family and animals.**

Please also pray for those still discerning their journey with the Catholic Church, especially *Emma, Lora, Erik, Andrew, Grace, Yuzhen, and Dean*, as well as anyone we may have unintentionally omitted from this list and all those yet to come.

**Please also offer a prayer for the men  
and women that share their talent,  
knowledge, and testimony with all of  
our OCIA participants.**

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### **A Prayer for Catechists**

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O God our Heavenly Father, you have given us the gift of these catechists to be heralds of the Gospel to our parish family.

We lift them up to you in thanksgiving and intercede for them concerning their hopes and needs.

May we be attentive to the presence of your Word in them, a Word that lifts up and affirms, calls forth and challenges, is compassionate and consoles.

We pray that our parish family will always be blessed with those who have responded to the call to share in Christ's prophetic mission as catechists. May we too be open to the universal call to service that Christ addresses to all of his disciples, contributing our gifts to the communion of faith, the Church.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.



## ***Prayer for Newly Initiated Catholics***

***"Lord, we pray for these, your servants, who have been initiated into the Catholic Church. Strengthen their faith and deepen their understanding of Your love. As they have been plunged into the waters of new birth and filled with the Eucharist, keep their hearts on fire for Your Kingdom. May they continue to grow in wisdom and knowledge, bringing Your light into the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen."***

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