

**Rites of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens
And of Welcoming Baptized Adults Who Are
Preparing for Reception into the Full Communion of the
Catholic Church
November 20, 2022 10:30 am Mass,
Immaculate Conception Church**

(After the opening hymn finishes)

Father Glenn: In the name of the Father...The Lord be with you.

(Dcn. Dean knocks **loudly** on the door.)

Deacon Dean: Brothers and Sisters, with us are men and women who have been inquiring into the Catholic faith. After several months study, they are asking to be admitted as Catechumens and Candidates.

Father Glenn: Dear friends, the Church joyfully welcomes today those who will be received into the Order of Catechumens. In the months to come they will prepare for initiation into the Christian faith by Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

We also greet those who, already one with us by Baptism, now wish to complete their Christian initiation through Confirmation and Eucharist and to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church.

For all of these, we give thanks and praise to the God who has led them by various paths to oneness in faith. You are welcomed in the name of Christ!

(Dcn. Dean leads them down the middle aisle then Dcn. Dean proceeds to the ambo.)

Deacon Dean: Brothers and Sisters, the following ask to be admitted to the Order of Catechumens:

(Dcn. Dean calls out the names of the Catechumens, who respond "Present".)

1. Tory Foster
2. Kyle Morrison
3. David Nelson
4. Rachel Whitfield

Father Glenn: What do you ask of God's Church?

Catechumens: Faith.

Father Glenn: What does faith offer you?

Catechumens: Eternal life.

Father Glenn: God is our Creator and in Him all living things have their existence. He enlightens our minds, so that we may come to know and worship Him. He has sent His faithful witness, Jesus Christ, to announce to us what He has seen and heard, the mysteries of heaven and earth.

Since you acknowledge with joy that Christ has come, now is the time to hear His word, so that you may possess eternal life by beginning, in our company, to know God and love your neighbor. Are you ready, with the help of God, to live this life?

Catechumens: I am.

Deacon Dean: Brothers and Sisters, the following ask to be admitted as candidates for full communion with the Catholic Church:

(Dcn. Dean calls out the names of the Candidates, who respond "Present".)

1. Kristy Brown
2. Sabrina Spurrier
3. Scott Spurrier
4. William Whitfield

Father Glenn: Those of you who seek to complete your Christian initiation or be received into full communion of the Catholic Church, are you prepared to listen to the apostles' instruction, gather with us for prayer, and join in the love and service of others?

Candidates: We are.

Father Glenn: Sponsors, you now present these candidates to us; are you, and all who are gathered with us, ready to help these candidates follow Christ?

All: We are.

Father Glenn: Father of mercy, we thank you for these your servants. You have sought and summoned them in many ways and they have turned to seek you. You have called them today and they have answered in our presence. We praise you, Lord, and we bless you.

Father Glenn: I now invite you to receive the sign of your new life as Catechumens and Candidates.

(Father Glenn goes into the center isle and traces the cross on the forehead of each Catechumen and Candidate.)

Catechumens: (Tory Foster, Kyle Morrison, David Nelson, and Rachel Whitfield)

Father Glenn: Receive the cross on your **forehead**. It is Christ himself who now strengthens you with this sign of his love. Learn to know him and follow him.

Candidates: (Kristy Brown, Sabrina Spurrier, Scott Spurrier, and William Whitfield)

Father Glenn: Receive the cross on your **forehead** as a reminder of your baptism into Christ's saving death and resurrection.

The Signing of the Senses

(Father Glenn returns to the Sanctuary and as he says each prayer, the Sponsor will make a generous sign of the cross over each part of the body, while the choir leads the congregation in singing.)

Father Glenn: Receive the sign of the cross on your **ears**, that you may hear the voice of the Lord.

Father Glenn: Receive the sign of the cross on your **eyes**, that you may see the glory of God.

Father Glenn: Receive the sign of the cross on your **lips**, that you may respond to the word of God.

Father Glenn: Receive the sign of the cross on your **heart**, that Christ may dwell there by faith.

Father Glenn: Receive the sign of the cross on your **shoulders**, that you may bear the gentle yoke of Christ.

Father Glenn: Receive the sign of the cross on your **hands**, that Christ may be known in the work which you do.

Father Glenn: Receive the sign of the cross on your **feet**, that you may walk in the way of Christ.

Father Glenn: Please face the altar.

Father Glenn: + I sign you with the sign of eternal life in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen!

Father Glenn: Let us pray.

Almighty God,
by the cross and resurrection of your Son,
you have given life to your people.
Your servants have received the sign of the cross:
make them living proof of its saving power
and help them to persevere in the footsteps of Christ.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen!

Father Glenn: Dear Candidates and Catechumens, you have been marked with the cross of Christ. I now invite you to come forward and receive God's Word of salvation in the Holy Scriptures.

(The sponsors bring the new Catechumens and Candidates forward, where each receives a copy of the Scriptures from the Celebrant. Then they go to their seats with their families and/or sponsors.)

Father Glenn: Receive the Word of God!

All are seated for the Liturgy of the Word.

Special Intercessions-Prayer of the Faithful

Fr. Glenn: These catechumens and candidates, who are our brothers and sisters, have already traveled a long road. We rejoice with them in the gentle guidance of God who has brought them to this day. Let us pray that they may press onwards, until they come to share fully in our way of life.

Deacon Pat:

- That God our Father may reveal His Christ to the Catechumens and Candidates more and more with every passing day, we pray to the Lord.
- That they may undertake with generous hearts and souls whatever God may ask of them, we pray to the Lord.
- That they may have our sincere and unfailing support every step of the way, we pray to the Lord.
- That they may find in this parish compelling signs of unity, radiating joy, passionate love for Jesus, and generous service of those in need, we pray to the Lord.
- We pray for all the sick and suffering, for those listed in our parish bulletin, and for all those for whom we have promised to pray, and for all our parishioners, we pray to the Lord.
- For world peace, for the unity of all Christians, and for the safety of all who serve our country, we pray to the Lord.
- For all the dead in Christ, especially those of our families and friends and those of this parish, and for: **the repose of the souls of Louis and Mary VanderStaay**, for whom this Mass is offered, we pray to the Lord.