

# RCIA: Meet our Candidates and Catechumen

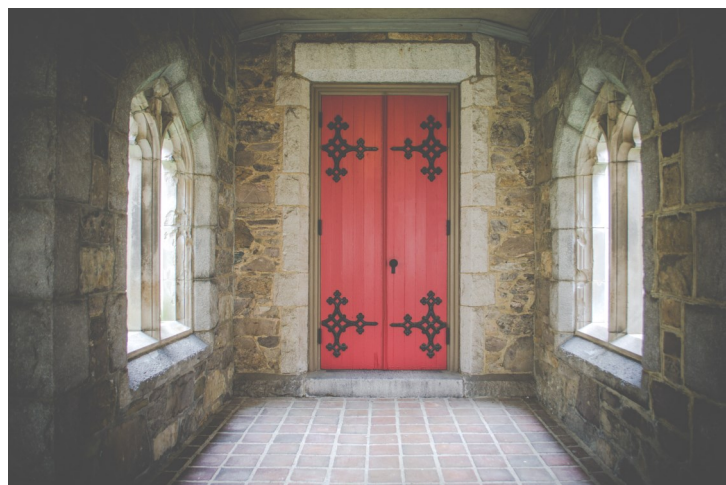
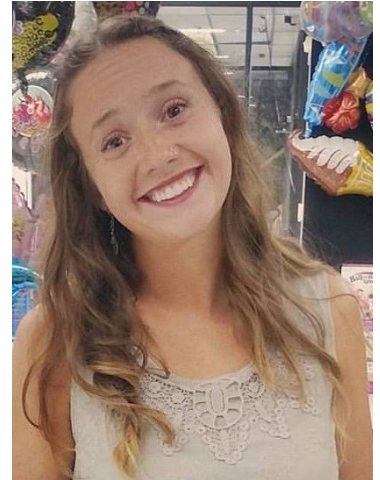
## Candidate: Molly Mattson

Molly Mattson is a baptized Christian who would like to become Catholic. She has been preparing since September to become a member of the Catholic Church. She will be Confirmed and make her Profession of Faith at the Easter Vigil. The following is a piece she shared about her faith journey. Please remember Molly in your prayers as she moves more closely into the Catholic Church.

My faith journey has existed throughout my life, but my faith had not become an important piece of me until my adult life. I grew up as going to a Lutheran church that my family knew and loved. My grandmother was greatly involved with this church, and after her passing the church played a lesser role in my life. I have always believed in God to an extent, but it was not until exploring my religious options as an adult that I found a home that made my faith feel important.

A few years back I struggled with alcohol, as did my spouse, Alexander. When life became overwhelming or stressful, alcohol was my go-to solution. With time, Alexander and I realized that we needed to make a substantial change in our lives to put us back on track and make us happy. Upon becoming sober, attending a 12-step group, and getting a sponsor, I became much more open to the idea of a higher power that I could turn my will and life over to. This realization that I was not in control was both relieving and scary, but it helped me to develop a stronger sense of faith that I carry with me today.

After “church-shopping,” Alexander and I found OLP. All of a sudden, we both felt that we had found a religion that fit us. My step-mom and sisters attend this church, and the community was quick to embrace us. RCIA has been a wonderful experience that has helped me to continually develop my relationship with God, a practice that I hope to maintain as a new member of this Church!



## Connect Now Online Giving

Over the next several months, Our Lady of Peace will be moving to a new application for online donations and payments. The new system is a module of our current church census database and accounting system.

Our plan is to have all donations and payment of fees handled by this application. This system will give us more flexibility than the current Vanco system allows. It consolidates our transactions into one program that can handle all of the parish and school needs. Some key features include:

- The ability to create registration forms for our programs and pay for them at the same time
- The ability for parish and school staff to easily see who has registered and paid
- The seamless connection to our accounting system streamlines our accounting process, reducing staff workload and improving accuracy

### What does this mean for current online givers?

It will mean setting up a new account in ConnectNow Giving and disabling your account in Vanco. Current online givers will be contacted in the near future to change their account. For those that need assistance, staff will be available after Masses on a weekend after Easter. This date is yet to be determined.

### Why should I set up an Account in Connect Now Giving?

An account will allow you to:

- Have control of your information
- Be able to use a credit card or bank account number
- See the history of all donations and payments
- Be able to donate and/or pay fees for both the church and school programs
- The application will self populate future transactions

### Test Site

To work out the details of Connect Now Giving, the “Annual OLP Plant Sale” as been set up using this application. If you will be ordering flowers, please **Set Up An Account**.

### More Information

If you would like more information, please contact Renee Svard at [rsvard@olpmn.org](mailto:rsvard@olpmn.org) or 612-821-5381.



Thank you to all OLP parishioners, friends of OLP and school families who supported Our Lady of Peace by purchasing raffle tickets this year.



Our Gala Committee is working to put on a fantastic evening, filled with fun, cocktails, games, food, dancing, and FUNDRAISING for Our Lady of Peace School!

Ladies and Gentlemen, the fundraising part of the night, just got a whole lot more FUN! Get this....Our Lady of Peace School was just approved for a matching challenge grant for our fund-a-need project from the Catholic Schools Center of Excellence (CSCOE). What does that mean? CSCOE is challenging us to raise \$20,000 for our fund-a-need and when we meet that goal, they will MATCH our \$20,000 goal with another \$20,000!

What is our fund-a-need project? It is Mr. Berry's recently announced 3R Project: Renew, Refresh, and Rejuvenate.

Key components of this Project include:

### **1. Moving the Early Learning Program**

Starting in the fall of the 2018-19 school year, we are relocating the Early Learning Program (ELP) to the 1st floor of the building, adjacent to the school office. The purpose of this move is two-fold: 1) to improve campus security and 2) to promote the sense of community and belonging with our ELP families. This move will also allow the ELP to expand in numbers to meet the high demand for enrollment.

### **2. 3R Project: Renew, Refresh, and Rejuvenate**

Due to the relocation of ELP next year, there has been extensive planning for the relocation of kindergarten through 5th grade. Each teacher was asked to think about their new space and what they need to make it the best learning environment possible. These improvements include new flooring, paint, technology, and/or furniture.

All parishioners, school families, alumni, and friends of Our Lady of Peace School are invited to attend the gala and participate in this fundraising challenge!

**To purchase tickets to the gala and/or donate to the fund-a-need, please visit <https://one.bidpal.net/olpgala18/welcome>.** We look forward to seeing many of you at the gala on Saturday, April 21st!

The Youth of Our Lady of Peace  
offer an evening of prayer and reflection.



The **Living Stations**  
of the **Cross**

Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>

7:00 pm

Our Lady of Peace Church

Living Stations of the Cross is a prayer drama presented through word and music by Middle School and High School Youth in the Our Lady of Peace Community. Our young people offer up their rehearsals and their performance in prayer for the sick and hurting in the parish and also for those in the RCIA program, please join them in this reflection.

Come and join them in prayer, remembering the sacrifice of our Lord.

# Holy Week at Our Lady of Peace



## Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Saturday, March 24  
5 p.m.

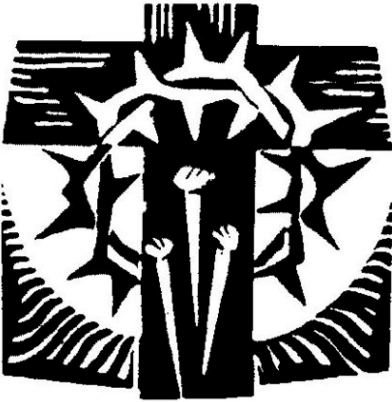
Sunday, March 25  
9 and 11 a.m.



## Holy Thursday Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

Thursday, March 29  
7 p.m.

following Mass you are invited to stay for adoration  
and evening prayer.



## Good Friday of the Lord's Passion

Friday, March 30

Stations of the Cross  
3 p.m.

Good Friday Liturgy  
7 p.m.



## Easter Sunday The Resurrection of the Lord

Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter  
Saturday, March 31  
8 p.m.

Easter Day  
Sunday, April 1  
9 and 11 a.m.