

RCIA: Meet our Candidates and the Elect

Elect: Alexander Smith

Alexander Smith desires to become Catholic. He has been preparing since September to become a member of the Catholic Church. He will be welcomed into the Church at the Easter Vigil. The following is a piece he shared about his faith journey. Please remember Alexander in your prayers as he moves more closely into the Catholic Church.

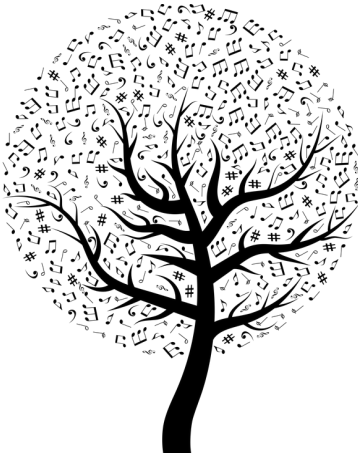
My name is Alexander Smith and my faith life started when I was 19 years old. I didn't have a religious upbringing but as an adult; I became curious and realized there was so much more to life than just the physical realities we perceive by purely natural means. I began to attend various Protestant churches and spent hours on end reading and studying the Bible both on my own and with an evangelical group called Bible Study Fellowship. Jesus promised us that those who earnestly seek will find and to those who knock the door will be opened, this is what happened to me in quite a dramatic way.



After attending protestant services and reading the Bible I began to discover the inherent contradiction of "Bible only, Faith only" theology, but this discovery was not something that I simply stumbled upon with my own intellect. I was at my house when I had an experience that I believe was a true miracle. I found myself in a highly emotional state (which is fairly uncommon) but not a warm and fuzzy "religious high" kind of way, no this was an authentic conversion. I went from being an anti-Catholic protestant to a man who wanted nothing more than to be received into Jesus' Church within the span of 30 minutes. I frantically called my one and only Catholic friend and told him what happened. He said "finally my prayers and sufferings have paid off;" it's a day neither of us will ever forget. I began to fiercely inquire into every aspect of the Catholic Church- what a wealth of knowledge there is out there and there's still so much I don't know. The more I learned about the Church's teachings, the more I accepted because "as far as the Heavens are from the earth are my ways above yours, says the Lord." The Bible began to make so much more sense, I felt like my eyes had been opened to the Truth that had been hiding in plain sight all along. "You are Peter and upon this Rock, I will build my Church," "Unless you drink the blood of the Son of Man and eat His flesh you have no life within you" and so many more passages were brought into focus. I want to express my gratitude to my sponsor, my wife, the RCIA team, and everyone else who has been so helpful and supportive throughout this process. The Eucharist is something I have been looking forward to with great anticipation for over a year now and I am honored that all of you have welcomed me into your parish to receive this Sacrament with you!



Music & Liturgy



Youth Choir

All Youth from second grade through High School are invited to sing on Easter Sunday (April 1 at the 9 am Mass) this year.

Our final run through will be Saturday, March 31 from 10- 11 a.m. Please email mswarhout@olpmn.org if you are interested or have questions.

Men Chant Schola for Holy Thursday

For those men who have prepared to sing on Holy Thursday (March 29), we will meet at 6 pm on Thursday for a warmup and brief run through before we sing at Mass.

Please contact epike@olpmn.org with questions or interest. Rehearsal materials are available.

Hallelujah Chorus for Easter Vigil

Our Festival Choir is a group of singers from the Parish that sing for special liturgies at OLP. The piece that started it all was the Hallelujah Chorus for Easter. All are welcome to join your voice and sing this magnificent work!

Easter Sunday: Welcoming the Stranger

So many people describe their experience of coming to OLP as being a welcoming one; this is not just part of who we are called to be as a Parish Community, but who we are called to be as Christians. On Easter Sunday we always have many visitors, some who are out of town guests, some who have been away from the church for months or years, and others who may be searching for a new spiritual home. As you come to church on Easter Sunday, please consider how you might serve these people in love as Jesus has called us to do, and how you might welcome a stranger. Perhaps you might consider parking in the Hale parking lot, if you are able, so that guests and those who have difficulty walking might have the closest spots; you might say “hello,” and “Happy Easter” to someone who you don’t recognize; you might thank parents, who struggled through Mass with a restless little one, for bringing their child to participate in Mass with you and the community. There are so many options; let us all consider at least some small way we can serve others and our Lord on the day of His Resurrection.

Parish Life

March Leisure Club to Feature Special Guests

Guess who’s coming to dinner in March? Our special guests will be the Animal Ambassadors! Martha and Jill will bring a special combination of domestic and somewhat exotic creatures certain to pique our curiosity!

OLP Leisure Club meets on Tuesday, March 27th at noon in Pates Hall. Potluck is on the menu. Our wonderful cooks always come up with a variety of culinary treats! If cooking is not an option for you, the cost is \$6.00 per person.

Contact Bernie Howell (724-4547) or Karlette Rizzi (729-1501) for more information. Please join us!

Resurrection Reception

March 31, 2018
After the Easter Vigil
Pates Hall

*You are invited to a community celebration of the Resurrection
and to welcome those newly initiated in our church!*

Want to help with the evening?

Bring your favorite Easter Food to Share!
Drop off your contribution of hors d'oeuvres, dessert, fruit,
or Easter surprises to Pates Hall between 5 and 7 pm.

Or volunteer to:

Set Up & Receive Donations: Saturday before the Vigil around 7 pm

Set-out and serve for the Reception: After Communion around 10 pm

Simple Cleanup: After the Party 11- 11:30 pm

Call or email Joy B.: 612-223-8108 or jbiedrzycki@olpmn.org

Registration for the 2018 OLP spring gala is live.
All are welcome to attend and celebrate our community!



*Our Lady of Peace School
2018 Gala*

Tickets will be on sale through Thursday, April 12.

Visit www.olpmn.org or <https://one.bidpal.net/olpgala18/welcome> to purchase ticket or make a donation.

Pre-purchasing tickets is required. Unfortunately, we will not be able to accommodate walk in tickets.

We hope to see you there!