

The invitation of prayer from the Easter Vigil

*We pray to you, O God,
Our Loving Creator,
for our sisters and brothers
who are asking for faith in you.*

*You have called them and brought
them to this moment;
grant them light and strength
to follow Christ
with open and generous hearts,
especially loving those
who are poor and rejected.*

*May they be given new life
In the Spirit and be nourished by
the body of Christ.*



RCIA Elect and Candidates St. Agatha Parish Lent 2010

Tabetha O'Connor and Lakshman Syal are preparing to be baptized, confirmed, and receive the Eucharist for the first time at the Easter Vigil. Pray for them, along with their families and sponsors.



Tabetha O'Connor - Elect

I moved to North Quincy with my husband Tom approximately 2 ½ years ago, largely in part to finally “settle down” and be closer to family. I worked full time at Caritas Carney Hospital as a Physical Therapist Supervisor up until 14 months ago when we were blessed with the birth of our first child Liam.

I was fortunate enough to be raised in a loving Protestant home with strong Christian values and faith in God. As I became a young adult and set out on my own I admittedly strayed from Church with typical, yet, poor excuses. Once married, my husband and I recognized the importance of bringing God more fully into our lives, and set out to find a church that would suit his Catholic and my Protestant backgrounds. After a few years of searching I began to feel a strong calling to join my husband in the Catholic community. It was difficult to explain “why”, it really was a “feeling” and something that persisted in my head and heart. It wasn't until our son was born and baptized here at St Agatha's that I was compelled to finally act on that feeling and make the commitment.

The RCIA journey has been incredibly powerful, and without doubt has deepened my faith and spirituality. I thank my family for their love, support and understanding, as it is through their example that I felt moved to unite my new family in Christ. I thank all the RCIA sponsors for their inspiration, knowledge, time, and dedication to us, so that we may share with them in the holy sacraments.



Lakshman Syal - Elect

I am a Systems Analyst currently working in Westwood and living in Foxboro MA. A little over a year ago, my fiancée Megan asked me to join her for a Sunday mass at St. Agatha's. I immediately felt drawn, and the experience left me wanting to learn more. Over the past year I have found strength, meaning and a sense of belonging within the church. The St. Agatha community and RCIA team have been knowledgeable, compassionate, and extremely welcoming during this journey of faith. Thank you for everything.

Keith Buckley, Stephen Pratt and Allegra Brooke, our RCIA "Candidates," have been baptized in other Christian traditions, and now are seeking full communion with the Catholic Church. At the Easter Vigil, they will profess their Catholic faith, be confirmed, and receive the Eucharist for the first time. Pray for them, their families, and their sponsors.



Stephen Pratt - Candidate

My wife, Annie and I have lived in Milton for over 3 years. We have 3 children, Eddie (5), Daniel (3) and Mebane (1). I was brought up in a Protestant home with strong family values and spiritual guidance – two qualities I'm very proud to have learned from my parents. As a child, I attended church on a regular basis and as the years went on I slowly drifted away from the church.

My connection with Catholic Church started 6 years ago when I experienced a moment that took my understanding of faith to new heights. Annie and I had not even been dating for a full year, we were off to visit my parents for the weekend and discussing our plans. Annie asked "when would be a good time to go to church?" My initial reaction was... "CHURCH!?" This little exchange got me thinking. It didn't take me long to realize what I had been thinking about. It was "FAITH!" For the first time in my life I truly understood what faith really meant. Annie's faith was inspiring. Don't get me wrong, I've always been a very spiritual person and believe in God. However, I know faith is the rock of our future. From that day I promised myself I would pray with her in the Catholic church whenever possible.

Whenever possible - became every Sunday, it's safe to say a spark ignited in me. Unknowingly, my journey was underway, I found myself looking forward to praying at the Catholic Church. Then about a year ago, I felt as though my time had come to make my journey complete. The RCIA program at the St Agatha Parish has been a key component to complete my journey. I had no idea what to expect when I first got involved. From the very beginning Father Casey and the RCIA church sponsors have been so dedicated and supportive to all of us. Thank you. I would also like to thank my family, their love and inspiration have made my journey so incredible.



Keith Buckley - Candidate

Last July, I participated in a silent retreat at the Abbey of Gethsemani. The first evening, Father Michael suggested that we pray and "ask God why He called us to Gethsemani." During the retreat I pondered that question and while experiencing wonderful periods of gratitude and fulfillment, there was also a deep sense of longing as though something was missing in my life.

Although I attended Mass at the Abbey, I was unable to fully participate since I was not Catholic. There was a sense of emptiness and "heartfelt ache" for a deeper communion with Christ. I thought about my love for and connection with family and friends, especially those who are members of the St. Agatha community. This experience also strengthened my resolve and commitment to further explore the monastic practices and healing arts.

While attending Mass shortly thereafter with my wife June at St. Agatha Church, God knocked again! This time through an announcement in the bulletin about the RCIA process. I felt a strong calling into this process and am so glad that I accepted this "invitation" from God and the St. Agatha community. The process is incredible and the RCIA team has been very supportive and welcoming, providing a comfortable place to ask questions, give opinions and share ideas. My hope is the success of this program will somehow reach out and touch others, here at St. Agatha and beyond.



Allegra Brooke - Candidate

I was born into a mixed-religion household - my mother was Episcopalian, and my father was Jewish. Based on our proximity to a church, I was confirmed as a Lutheran. Growing up in a home where there was no continuity of religion was difficult for me, particularly as a child, as I typically went to church services on my own. After a while, I stopped attending religious services all together and continued so for several years. In 2007, I moved to Boston and shortly thereafter, met John. Because John was Catholic, attending mass on Sunday's at St. Agatha's became a bonding experience during my weekend visits.

Around this time, I felt there was a large gap left in my life and that attending mass with John was fulfilling. I didn't know very much about Catholicism at the time; however, I felt comfortable at mass and enjoyed observing service. Once John and I became engaged, we both agreed that we wanted to be married in a full-Catholic sacrament, and also raise our children as Catholics. Coming from a mixed-religion household, it was very important for my future husband and I to share the same religion, and to raise our future children in a common faith. The RCIA program has shown me the path to become a member of the Catholic community, prepare for the sacrament of marriage, and continue on my lifelong spiritual journey.