



ST. JAMES BASILICA of Jamestown

Parish Newsletter

DECEMBER 2015



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Tara Steel *The Journey to Catholicism*

Everyone's faith journey is a little different. Some are born into their religion, some find their faith through a life altering event, and some keep searching until they find exactly what they are looking for. Such is the case with parishioner Tara Steel who, in recognizing that there was something missing in her spiritual life, kept searching until she finally found that missing element within the Catholic Church.

Originally from Oregon, Tara was 6 when an invitation to a Vacation Bible School first introduced her to Jesus. It was there that she learned her first Bible verse from John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his



Tara Steel with her son, Jayson (10), who will soon begin training to become an altar server.

only begotten Son that whomsoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life." At age 14, she became a member of the Assembly of God, and considered it her spiritual home.

"My faith is very important to me," Tara says. "Life is hard enough with the day-to-day struggles, but knowing I have Jesus who loves me

unconditionally is not only a driving force in my life, but gives me great joy and peace."

It was that very same faith to which she turned when, years later, she was going through a very difficult time in her life. An impending divorce and the reality of being a single mother with two children and one on

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Tara Steel *continued from front cover*

the way was almost more that she could bear. But in her darkest moments, she prayed to God, asking Him to get her through this hardship, and when it came time, she would find a way to give back.

It wasn't easy, and it took several years, but things began looking up for Tara. After being divorced for 11 years, in 2013, Tara joined a Christian online forum where she met and became engaged to Adam Miller, a psychologist who works at the North Dakota State Hospital. Then, she and her youngest son, Jayson, 10, moved to Jamestown and immediately joined an Evangelical church. A fiancé, a new life, wedding plans – everything was going well except that Tara wasn't happy with her church.

In her search for a spiritual home, she turned to Adam – who was raised Catholic – and began asking him about the Catholic Church. She had a LOT of questions. Up until that point, Tara says the only thing she knew about Catholicism was what she had seen in movies, and none of it was good. In fact, when she first met Adam and learned that he was Catholic, she warned him not to expect her to convert. Ever. But he shared with Tara the book *Rediscovering Catholicism* which, in an interesting twist, his mother had given him with the hope he would find his way back to the Church. Not long afterwards, Tara attended her first Mass.

"It was a defining moment for me," Tara says. "It was a Saturday afternoon and not only was it my first Mass, but it was also the first time my fiancé and I went together. During the homily, Msgr. Wald gave testimony about his decision to become a priest. At one point he addressed the congregation and said that he felt as if there may be some people present who were not sure where they belong – that although you may want to be somewhere else, the question was where God wanted you to be. I immediately felt chills and knew at that moment the Holy Spirit was speaking through Monsignor to me. I made the decision right there to convert, and that night, I called Tom Geffre and registered for RCIA classes."

Designed to give those interested in the Catholicism a thorough foundation of the teachings of the Catholic Church,



Tara Steel and her son, Jayson.

the RCIA program is a time of discernment where even the fears, doubts and questions are part of the process. But for Tara, it was a perfect fit, and she had no doubt that she was exactly where God meant her to be.

"That very first class was an eye-opener for me," Tara says. "And while I asked the questions I needed to ask, once things were explained it was so clear to me. I think that is the biggest thing about my conversion – the clarity I received."

And in the wonderful way God works, when Tara officially became a Catholic this past April, she was not alone. During that Easter Vigil Mass, her son, Jayson, also became a Catholic, and as the two of them went up to receive Communion, Adam was right there with them. On many levels, Tara's journey also became a journey for those closest to her.

Today, life is good for Tara – she has a job as Head Custodian for St. John's Academy, where her son is a student. In addition, Jayson will soon start training to become an altar server, and she and Adam are going through the annulment process and hope to be married in the spring. But most of all, Tara thinks back to those years when she asked God for help and how he led her to a faith that has not only changed her, but has given her a servant's heart.

"My life in the Catholic faith has changed the way I look at others," Tara says. "Where there was selfishness in my heart, there is now compassion and patience. I hope that by my actions and desire to serve, the love of Christ is shown through me."

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A Letter from Our Pastor

December: A Time for Mercy and Tenderness

Dear Parishioners:

Advent and Christmas are upon us. This is a busy time for me, for our parish, for priests, and certainly for most of you.

You and I both know that we will see many people during Christmas Masses that we do not see at other times during the year. Sometimes, it is difficult to avoid thoughts of “Where have they been?” or “Why now?” Yet, we all know why – there is something special about the Church and about our faith during these high holidays. First of all, you and I need to remember that fact – and we need to be grateful for it. This is a time not to reject or resent those who fill our pews and our parking lots, but is a time to be the loving and welcoming people Christ calls us to be. Hospitality is an important part of being a good steward, and this is a perfect time to practice it.

You may have heard of the term the “New Evangelization.” It is something Pope Francis has emphasized, in particular through his exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, which he wrote and issued two years ago. The pope’s letter, with the title that means “The Joy of the Gospel,” has advice for all Catholics relating to how we should view and treat these one-time-a-year Catholics.

The pope said, “There is a need for Christians who help show God’s mercy and tenderness toward every creature. We all know that today’s humanity is facing a deep crisis. This is why the new evangelization must necessarily use the language of mercy, which is more about gestures and attitudes than words.” It is appropriate that the Year of Mercy proclaimed by the pope begins on Dec. 8.

As the Holy Father reminded us, this is a time for “mercy and tenderness.” This is a time for us to show love for everyone, even those who may not live out the faith the way we think they should. This is a time to share the “Good News” and the love engendered by that with our families and all those with whom we come in contact.

May you and your families have a blessed Advent and Merry Christmas!

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Msgr. Jeffrey L. Wald
Pastor





“I Am so Honored to Serve *Kristen Lynch, Music and Liturgy*”



Kristen and Scott with their dog, Rossi, Easter 2015.



Kristen's siblings and parents (standing, from left) Kristen and Scott, Shane, Ryan, Amy and Kyler Hendrickson, April and Cory Foth. (Seated) Janet and Dwight Hendrickson



Kristen with a few of her first-grade students at Riverview in Washington.

As a young eighth-grade student, Kristen Lynch was an accompanist at Mass for the first time. She played piano for a single song that day. Before long, Kristen was providing musical accompaniment for full Masses at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Nortonville, N.D on a weekly basis.

As her involvement grew, so did Kristen's love for the liturgy and sense of stewardship –both foundational traits that are integral to the person she is today.

“We all need to share our gifts in order to build a strong community,” says Kristen, who is our new Music and Liturgy Coordinator/Social Media. “God blesses each of us with unique gifts, so by working together, we truly are united to form one body in Christ's Church.”

Kristen has a long history with the St. James community. It was a sort of homecoming when she and her husband, Scott, moved to Montpelier, Kristen's hometown, in 2014. They registered at St. James where Kristen received her earliest sacraments.

Brought up in a mixed-faith family, Kristen was raised Catholic, but was also involved in her dad's Lutheran church, where she helped teach Vacation Bible School. After graduating from Montpelier School, she attended the University of North Dakota, and her faith flourished.

“I really grew to love the Mass and the Catholic faith when I got to college,” Kristen says. “Fr. Courtright at the Newman Center was a great teacher. The more I learned, the more I loved the Church.”

While a freshman studying music education, Kristen met Scott through mutual friends. They had a single one-on-one conversation during the next few months before Scott deployed for Iraq in 2003. That conversation “started a spark.”

“We spent the next year writing letters and emails and speaking on the phone once every two or three weeks,” Kristen says. “For the first 18 months of our relationship, we only saw each other for eight days. It was hard, but it built the best foundation for our relationship – communication.”

They were married in 2007, and Scott was commissioned as an officer in the Air Force in 2009. Since then, Kristen and Scott have lived in Grand Forks;

the St. James Community” Liturgy Coordinator/Social Media

Panama City, Fla.; Edmond, Okla.; Snohomish, Wash.; and now, in Montpelier, where Scott works with Kristen’s dad on their farm.

“In March of 2014, we came back to my hometown for my grandpa’s funeral,” Kristen says. “While Scott was here, he experienced the community of Montpelier, and the peace and quiet of the country was appealing.”

Shortly after registering at St. James last year, Kristen became the accompanist for the Basilica Choir. From there, Kristen and Scott got involved with a college Bible study at the University of Jamestown and took part in Living Your Strengths. Now they are members of the Stewardship Committee and Scott recently joined the Prison Ministry.

This July, Kristen began her new position as Music and Liturgy Coordinator/Social Media. She brings with her a wealth of diverse musical experiences, for wherever they moved, Kristen found ways to use her talents!

In college, she was a music minister for the Newman Center and accompanist for the Salvation Army. Next, she served as the accompanist for the Catholic Church at Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida.

“While in Oklahoma, I was a substitute choir director for six weeks at a Methodist church and volunteered as an accompanist at the Tinker AFB Catholic Church,” Kristen says. “I also accompanied the Chancel Choir at a Lutheran Church in Washington for two years”

A certified teacher, Kristen taught kindergarten through sixth-grade general music and sixth-grade band while in Washington. One aspect of her new position she particularly enjoys is rehearsing with the students of St. John’s Academy.

Kristen works with the liturgy in so many ways at St. James. She schedules all those involved in the liturgy,



Kristen served as accompanist at her uncle’s wedding at St. Olaf Catholic Church in Finley, N.D.

selects music, plans school Masses, directs the Basilica Choir and assists with music for weddings and funerals. She also serves as the staff liaison to the Liturgy and Human Concerns Committee, maintains the Basilica’s online presence, and encourages others to give of their time and talents.

“I am really honored to serve the St. James community in this position,” Kristen says. “We need more volunteers! Every single one of you has a gift to share. Come in and talk to me, so we can find the right ministry for you.”

As a faith community, we welcome Kristen and Scott back home to Montpelier and congratulate Kristen on her new position at St. James. May her love for the liturgy and passion for stewardship continue to inspire us!

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– Kristen Lynch



“The Joy Needed to Rediscover and Make Fruitful the Mercy of God” *The Jubilee Year of Mercy*

Pope Francis has declared a Jubilee Year of Mercy, which will commence on Dec. 8, 2015 (the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception) and culminate on Nov. 20, 2016 (Christ the King-Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe).

Jubilee Years are not unique, as this will be the 29th such Jubilee Year since the first one in 1300. Our most recent Jubilee Years have been in 2000, 1983, and 1975. In the Catholic Church, the concept of the Jubilee is a special year of remission of sins and universal pardon. In the Book of Leviticus, a Jubilee year is

mentioned to occur every 50th year, in which slaves and prisoners would be freed, debts would be forgiven, and the mercies of God would be particularly manifest.

However, this particular Jubilee is unique in many ways. As in the past, it involves the establishment of Holy Doors. These are doors located at the four major Basilicas in Rome – St. Peter Basilica, the Basilica of St. Mary Major, the Basilica of St. John Lateran, and the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls. Usually, Catholics are invited to make a pilgrimage to Rome and to enter through these doors during the Holy Year. Christ identified Himself as “the door.” In his announcement, the Holy Father pointed out that the Holy Doors “...evoke the passage from sin to grace which every Christian is called to accomplish. Jesus is the one and absolute way to salvation. To pass through a Holy Door is to confess with firm conviction that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Lord, the Savior who suffered, died, and rose for our salvation.”

Pope Francis encourages every Catholic to make a pilgrimage to a Holy Door. He has recognized that pilgrimages will be taken to Rome and to other chosen churches with

Holy Doors spread around the world – there are three others designated in the world, with the only one in North America in Quebec City’s Basilica of Notre-Dame de Quebec in Canada. Thus, in an unprecedented move, Pope Francis has directed that every diocese and archdiocese in the world specify a church or shrine with a Holy Door to encourage and make it easier for vast numbers of people to make pilgrimages in keeping with the Holy Year and to pass through a Holy Door. To put that in perspective, there are almost 6,000 dioceses and archdioceses in the world, and nearly 200 in the United States alone.

Therefore, every Catholic has an opportunity to fulfill this pilgrimage and to pass through a Holy Door. The churches and shrines designated as having Holy Doors will be announced soon. Of course, there is much more involved in this Holy Year of Mercy. Each Catholic needs to strive to learn about the Jubilee Year and to fulfill its stipulations. As Pope Francis said in his Bull of Indiction, “Doors speak to us of welcome, hospitality, openness. I am convinced that the whole Church will find in this Jubilee the joy needed to rediscover and make fruitful the mercy of God.”



“I have decided to call an extraordinary Jubilee that is to have the mercy of God at its center. It shall be a Holy Year of Mercy.”

– His Holiness Pope Francis

“If We Give of Ourselves to God Through the Church, We Are Engaged”

Meet Emily Lauinger

Like many young people her age, Emily Lauinger is deeply involved in many things. In addition to her duties as a senior in high school, she also participates in swimming and is involved in the fall school play. Yet, she is also involved in her faith and the life of her parish, St. James Basilica.

For many years, Emily has been an altar server, and has been involved in other aspects of our faith community.

“I think I had some pretty good examples about serving and being one who served others,” she says. “I have observed my parents, Dorothy and Geoff, and my older siblings, Amanda and Jacob, serve in this way, as well. Now I really have the privilege of serving with my younger brother, Joseph. It is important for us, no matter our age, to find ways to serve the Church and others. If we give of ourselves to God through the Church, we are engaged. Our Catholic faith is an important part of our life.”

Our Holy Father Pope Francis has had much to say to young people and their involvement in the Church. At the international youth rally in Brazil, the pope said, “If we want to have real meaning and fulfillment, as you want and as you deserve, I say to each one of you, ‘Put on faith,’ and your life will take on a new flavor. It will have a compass to show you the way. ‘Put on hope’ and every one of your days will be enlightened and your horizon will no longer be dark, but luminous. ‘Put on love’ and your life will be like a house built on a rock. Your journey will be joyful, because you will find many friends to journey with you. ‘Put on Christ’ in your life, and you will find a friend whom you can always trust. ‘Put on Christ’ and you will see the wings of hope spreading.”

Emily’s faith is indeed an important part of her life, not just something she does on the weekends or at Mass. Emily challenges all of us at St. James to find ways to be a part of parish life.

“There are so many opportunities to be involved here,” she says. “I know it is not easy, and it may require a few sacrifices. But I believe that others my age, and certainly



(From left) Emily Lauinger with her parents, Geoffrey and Dorothy, and her brother, Joseph.

people who are older, need to find ways to serve and to be active in more than just worship. Our parish is a family – a family is stronger when each member plays a part. I know that is true in my own family.”

Upon her graduation, Emily is looking to continue her education in college with a possible major in some aspect of communications. Emily already communicates well the call of stewardship, which is represented by actions, not words. Her example and her challenge to all of us is an excellent one. May God continue to bless her and her family!

“There are so many opportunities to be involved here. I know it is not easy, and it may require a few sacrifices. But I believe that others my age, and certainly people who are older, need to find ways to serve and to be active in more than just worship. Our parish is a family – a family is stronger when each member plays a part. I know that is true in my own family.” – Emily Lauinger



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Weekend Mass

Saturday Vigil
4:30 p.m. Mass

Sunday

8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m. Mass

Daily Mass

Monday thru Friday - 12:10 p.m. Mass

Saturday - 8:00 a.m. Mass

Reconciliation

Monday thru Friday - 11:40 a.m. - 12 noon

Saturday - 3:30 p.m.

Adoration

Every Thursday - 1:00-5:00 p.m.;

Monthly - 1st Friday All Night adoration
8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. Saturday

2015 Advent & Christmas Schedule

St. James Basilica

December 24

4:00pm

6:00pm (Without Incense)

10:00pm

December 25

9:30am

St. Mathias, Windsor

December 24

10:00pm

St. Michael, Pingree

December 25

10:30am

