

# Catholics Returning Home

St Andrew Catholic Church

Do you have questions about the Catholic faith? Would you like to have a deeper understanding of it? If you have been away from the Church for a while or would just like to know more about your Catholic faith, these sessions are for you! If you know of someone who has been away from the Church, please invite them to return home by attending these sessions. Our sessions cover a variety of topics and will allow time for **your** questions and concerns. We want to address issues concerning you.

**For information, call Larry or Tracie Vicario at 770-998-5971.**

## Outline:

### **Introduction**

- Why should you attend Church?
- Who instituted the Church?
- What are the Benefits of Attending Church?
- Why the Catholic Church?
- Sources of Divine Revelation
  - Sacred Scripture or the Bible
  - Sacred Tradition
  - Magisterium teaching

### **Changes since Vatican II**

- Changes in the Mass (Recent changes to the Mass will also be discussed)
  - Vernacular
  - Church Layout
  - Music
  - More Parishioner Participation
- Pastoral Changes
  - More involvement of Laity
  - Return of Deacons
- Overall Intent
  - From Institutional to Individual
  - Emphasis on God's Mercy not just God's Judgment

### **Scriptural Basis of the Catholic Faith (Apologetics)**

- Salvation
  - Who Can be Saved?
  - Salvation through Faith and Works
  - Once Saved, Always Saved?
  - Heaven, Hell and Purgatory
- Authority of the Church
  - Papal Authority
- Scriptural basis of the Sacraments
- Mary
  - Perpetual Virginity

### **Understanding the Mass**

- Introductory Rite
- The Liturgy of the Word
  - The Readings
  - The Homily
  - Profession of Faith
- The Liturgy of the Eucharist

- Preparation of the Gifts
- Eucharistic Prayer
- A Deeper Meaning
- Communion Rite
  - Worthiness
  - Real Presence
- The Concluding Rite
- History of the Mass

## **Reconciliation**

- The Need for Reconciliation
  - Scriptural Basis for Confession
  - History of Confession
- Types of Sin
  - Venial Sin
  - Mortal Sin
- The Act of Reconciliation
  - Examination of Conscience
  - Confession
  - Contrition and Absolution
    - The Grace of Reconciliation
  - Penance
- A Side Topic: Indulgences
  - How to Gain an Indulgence
  - Types of Indulgences
  - How often can you obtain an Indulgence
  - Indulgences for the Dead
- Frequency of Confession

## **Dogma and Doctrine**

- Trinity
- Marian Dogmas
- Papal Infallibility

## **The Bible**

- Overview
- Old Testament
  - Pentateuch
  - Historical Books
  - Wisdom Books
  - Prophetic Books
- New Testament
  - The Gospels
  - The Acts of the Apostles
  - The Epistles or Letters
  - Revelations
- Themes of the Bible
  - Salvation History
  - God speaks to His People
  - Blessings of Obedience
- Brief History of the Bible
  - Why are Protestant and Catholic Bibles Different?