

This weekend we will celebrate the Rite of Acceptance and Welcoming for those in OCIA. A few were baptized Catholic and are now returning to a faith begun in them long ago. Others are coming from no faith at all, while others come from Protestant Churches, Buddhist backgrounds, and many others. Some have already read the Catechism, while others have found inspiration in various online platforms. Some are drawn by the Eucharist, others the blessing of community. Some are ready and eager for the waters of baptism, while others are dipping their toes in the water. Some are here by themselves, others as a family, or supported by a significant other. Each of their stories is unique and beautiful in its own way – as God draws them unto Himself, and they respond in faith.

Our almost weekly classes at St. Joseph and Mary, Queen of Peace are wonderful times to pray together and share the gift of faith, as we reflect on the mysteries revealed to us in Christ Jesus. We have individual groups at St. Joseph for children and youth, as well. We currently have 34 adults and 20 children and youth from the three parishes on this journey of faith. Please keep our OCIA catechumens and candidates in your prayer during the year ahead.

As we celebrate the feast of Christ the King this weekend, these individuals remind us of the importance of ordering our lives on Christ. That's not always simple or easy, but worth it. What are the areas of your life where the kingship of Christ isn't complete yet? May we always seek to reign with Him, instead of yanking the scepter away from our Lord.

This weekend is the last weekend of three separate bulletins for each parish, as next weekend we move to a single bulletin for all three communities. Thank you for your patience and grace as we move through a new process. It will be a great opportunity, though, to more fully connect and take advantage of the many opportunities within our wider east King County Catholic community.

In Christ,

Fr. Matthew Oakland

