

Saints Peter & Paul Catholic Church

129 Elmore St., Oak Hill, West Virginia 25901



PASTORAL STAFF:

Pastor: Rev. Jojan Joseph
304-281-0086 or jjoseph@dwc.org

Deacon: Rick Allen
304-541-6077 or rallen@dwc.org

Parish Bookkeeper: Ms. Amy Inghram
Monday & Thursday: 10:00am—6:00p.m

Pastoral Secretary: Ms. Cindy Everly
Tue, Wed & Fri: 9:00am —3:00pm

Parish Custodian: Mrs. Kathy Ryder

Music Director: Ms. Caitlin Watkins
caitlinwatkins2002@gmail.com

Parish Office: 304-465-5445

Parish Email: ssppoffice@stspccatholic.org

Director of Religious Education: Dr. Ricky White
Rickyd.white@gmail.com; 1-405-812-5448

Ladies Guild: Mrs. Susan Woods
susanwoodsrx@gmail.com

Knights of Columbus/Food Pantry:
Mr. Anthony Gerard / agerard1956@gmail.com

PARISH WEBSITE & Facebook Page:
<http://www.stspccatholic.org>
(FB) [SSPPCatholicChurchOakHill,WV](https://www.facebook.com/SSPPCatholicChurchOakHill,WV)

Parish Mailing Address:
129 Elmore St., Oak Hill, WV 25901

SCHOOL STAFF:

School Principal: Mrs. Natasha Mucho-Seay
nmucho@ssppcatholic.org

School Secretary: Mrs. Kristy Humphrey
secty@ssppcatholic.org

School Office: 304-465-5045

Parish/School Fax: 304 465-8726

SCHOOL WEBSITE

<http://www.ssppcatholic.org>

School Mailing Address:
123 Elmore St., Oak Hill, WV 25901



22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 1, 2024

Sacraments

Baptism

Contact Parish office or Fr. Jojan to schedule the Baptism and make arrangements for the required parent preparation session.

First Holy Communion

First Eucharist is celebrated in April/May for children who are enrolled in second grade at either Saints Peter & Paul Catholic School, or the Faith Formation Program of our Parish.

Confession

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available every Saturday from 4:15pm to 5:15pm, and before or after weekday Masses.

Confirmation

Celebrated for students in 9th grade who have been prepared during their 8th grade year. Catholic adults who have not been confirmed should contact the Parish Office to be included in the celebration.

Marriage Contact Parish office or Fr. Jojan Joseph **6 months in advance** of the marriage date.

Anointing of the Sick & Visiting of the Sick/Homebound

Please notify Fr. Jojan Joseph at 304-281-0086

WELCOME TO SSPP PARISH!

NEW MEMBERS - Catholics over the age of 18 (unless they are in school) are invited to become registered members of our parish! This is a great way to practice the Catholic Faith. Registration forms are available on the bulletin boards in the back of the Church.

This Week's Liturgy Schedule

Sat. Aug 31 Vigil
 5:30p.m. †Catholics of Goodwill
 req. by Brad Deflumeri & Rachel Roush

Sun. Sept. 1 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 8:00a.m. For Our Parish Family
 10:30a.m. Engagement of Nicholas Pauley & Madalyn Norton
 req. by Herman & Bev Hundley

Mon. Sept. 2 No Mass

Tue. Sept. 3 †William Downs req. by Ladies Guild

Wed. Sept. 4 School Mass
 8:30a.m. †Anna Sheehan req. by Becky Williams

Thu. Sept. 5
 5:30p.m. †Jim Hagedorn
 req. by Terri & Bill Light

6:00p.m. Adoration

Fri. Sept. 6
 8:30a.m. †Carmella & Larry Demasi
 req. by Dena Turner

Sat. Sept. 7 Vigil
 5:30p.m. †Orville Richard Gamby
 req. by Brad Deflumeri & Rachel Roush

Sun. Sept. 8 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 8:00a.m. For Our Parish Family
 10:30a.m. †Terri Lyn Harvey
 req. by Art & Mary Gonzales

Finance Council meeting will be on Wednesday, September 18, 6:00p.m.

Faith Formation

Faith Formation classes will be resuming on Sunday, September 15 at 9:15a.m. - 10:15a.m. Those who were enrolled last year are promoted to the next level of Faith Formation class.

If your child is ready to begin his/her Faith Formation from grade K - 8, please sign them up.

First Holy Communion: All those children enrolled in **second grade** are eligible. If any child did not receive First Holy Communion when they were in 2nd grade they may also enroll. They will have separate, special preparation. **Those who are enrolling for First Holy Communion are requested to fill out the form before September 15th.**

Confirmation classes are for all students in 8th grade and above. This year, depending on the number of enrollment, we will have preparation. **The last day of signup for Confirmation class is September 15th.**

The Faith Formation Forms are in the back of the church. Please fill out all forms in their entirety and submit **before September 15th.** Submit to the Parish office, or drop into the collection basket.

Catechism teachers (K - 8) meeting will be on Sunday, September 8, after 10:30 Mass. We will gather in the Parish school immediately following Mass.

Director of Religious Education: Dr. Ricky White



Randal Rosiek and Sierra Ramsey are forming a family through the sacrament of marriage on Saturday, September 14, 2024. Let us pray for the engaged couple.

Liturgical Ministry Schedule for Sept. 7/Sept. 8

Altar Servers	Lectors	Hospitality Ministers	Extraordinary E.M.
<u>Saturday 7, 5:30p.m.</u> Maddox Gerencer Trace Rosiek	Tom Gerencer	Rebecca Stinnett Curtis Richards Scott & Brenda Vargo	Emma Davis Paula Lagos
<u>Sunday 8, 8:00a.m.</u> Blake & Brandt Kemlock	Aaron Kemlock	Debbie Garvin Anthony Gerard Kathryn Wickline Andy Wickline	Debbie Hatcher Dianne Murphy
<u>Sunday 8, 10:30a.m.</u> Adriana Ibarra Natalia Ibarra	Alison Ibarra	Fred Neudek Jose Ibarra Eddie Chornobay	Herman Hundley Gemma White

If you are unable to serve, please find a substitute



Pizza Party

Any teens in 8th - 12th grade are invited Sunday, September 8th after 10:30am Mass to a pizza party in the Father Moore room. Megan and Laura will be leading the discussion for this years CYO. There will be many new things introduced for this year. Please bring your friend & classmate.



First Saturday Rosary

All are welcome to join Knights and fellow parishioners at 4:45p.m. Saturday, September 7th to recite the Rosary.



Pray & write to our own seminarians

Alex White, CSC
St. Ignatius Martyr
2390 Euclid Ave
Austin, TX 78704



Dominic Re
Mount St. Mary's Seminary
16300 Old Emmitsburg Rd.
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

Last Week's Attendance & Giving

August 24/25, 2024

Attendance: 213

Regular Collection Combined Masses

Weekly Offering	\$2,701.00
Online	\$ 590.00
School	\$ 145.00
School Maintenance	\$ 0.00
Parish Maintenance	\$ 150.00
Votives	\$ 82.00
Second Collection -	\$ 0.00
Mass Intentions	\$ 40.00
Food Pantry	\$ 0.00
Give Love Live Love	\$6,213.00

Thank you for your generous support



Saints Peter & Paul Ladies Guild will be meeting Tuesday, September 3rd at 6:00p.m. We will be meeting in the Father Moore room this month. We will be discussing fall celebrations to come and other agenda as discussed at our last meeting. All ladies of the Parish are considered members and are encouraged to attend. Please join us. There will be light refreshments and wonderful fellowship.

Adult Bible Study

Sunday, September 1, 9:15a.m. - 10:15a.m.



GIVE LOVE ~ LIVE LOVE Campaign

119 total donations of \$300,440 as of 8/30/24



Dear parishioners,

On behalf of entire parish community, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you for your incredible support and generosity. Thanks to your unwavering commitment and contributions, we have successfully completed the fundraising program for the school roof and parish portico.

Your dedication and collective effort have made this achievement possible. It is a testament to the strength and unity of our parish family. We are truly blessed to have such a caring and supportive parish family.

As we celebrate this milestone, let us also look forward to the continued growth and spiritual renewal of our parish and school. Together, we can accomplish great things and continue to serve our community with love and compassion.

We are thankful to the anonymous donor for the extremely generous contribution of \$150,000 and the Diocese for their contribution of \$72,600 to our projects.

Thank you once again for your generosity and support. May God bless you all abundantly.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Rev. Jojan Joseph





To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact WV Child Protective Services at 800.352.6513. In addition to civil authorities, to report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, please contact the Diocese at 888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880. Please visit www.dwc.org under "Accountability" for additional information and reporting methods. Saints Peter & Paul Church has named Cindy Everly the Coordinator for our church's Safe Environment team.

Eucharistic Revival



**Father in heaven, you have made us for yourself;
our hearts are restless until they rest in you.
Fulfill this longing through Jesus, the Bread of Life,
whose sacramental Body we receive in the Eucharist,
so that we may witness to him who alone satisfies the hungers of the human family.
By the power of your Spirit**

The Year of Parish Revival

lead us to the heavenly table where we may feast on the vision of your glory for ever and ever, Amen.

School News

We have a couple of exciting events coming up. First of all, we will host a Grandparents' Luncheon to be held on Friday, September 6 (Grandparents' Day is Sunday, September 8). The students and staff look forward to this event every year.



Secondly, Bishop Brennan will be arriving on Wednesday, September 18, and he will celebrate mass with the students, staff, and parents and have lunch with the students. Please feel free to join us in the celebration.
Natasha Mucho-Seay, Principal

Knights News Grand Knight: Dr. Ricky White
1-405-812-5448 Rickyd.white@gmail.com

There are several Knights that we would like to have come back into our council. All they need to do is pay this years dues of \$25 and we can update them as paid in full. See Anthony Gerard for form to fill out.

Food & Hygiene Pantry:

Due to the response that we receive from the Blessing Box on the hotel size toiletries, the pantry is requesting that if on vacation, bring back and donate any unused items. Any help would be appreciated. Items are available for everyone. Hours are 9:00am - 3:00pm. Contact Anthony Gerard for any questions you may have at 304-673-1054.

Please Notify Us:

If a family member is hospitalized, homebound or in an area nursing home, I would love to bring Holy Communion to those parish members who cannot come to us.
Rev. Jojan Joseph

The Knights of Columbus Football Frenzy Fundraiser has begun. Tickets are \$10 each and will be available in the back of the church or see any Knight. For questions contact Anthony Gerard at 304-673-1054

\$10 Green Bee SAVINGS CLUB

BUY 2 GET 1 FREE!
REDEEMABLE ONLINE

4 SIMPLE STEPS

1. Go to www.footballsweeps.com/FREE
2. Create Account or log in
3. Enter your two access codes
4. Receive your free ticket by email. Ticket linked to your online account. Offer valid thru 10/30/24 while supplies last.

Go to greenbeesavingsclub.com to take advantage of Rewards program certificate offers!
Registration required. Membership valid until 12/31/24.
Offers subject to change. By purchasing this membership card, you are automatically entered into the Football Frenzy Sweepstakes.

FOOTBALL FRENZY

\$7,000
TOTAL CASH PRIZES

HIGHEST\$ 200
2ND HIGHEST\$ 100
3RD HIGHEST\$ 70
4TH HIGHEST\$ 50
5TH HIGHEST\$ 40
6TH HIGHEST\$ 30
7TH HIGHEST\$ 20
LOWEST\$ 10
2ND LOWEST\$ 5

TOTAL WEEKLY PRIZES \$700
CASH PRIZES FOR HIGH AND LOW 4 TEAM TOTALS

WEST VIRGINIA STATE COUNCIL
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

All proceeds go to Catholic Education in West Virginia. NO PROCEEDS GO TO THE NFL.

IF YOUR FOUR TEAMS SCORE THE MOST OR LEAST NUMBER OF POINTS IN ANY WEEK YOU WIN A CASH PRIZE! YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO WIN EVERY WEEK FROM NOVEMBER 03 TO JANUARY 05, 2025.

YOUR 4 TEAMS EACH WEEK - TEAM CODES ON BACK

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
NOV 03	NOV 10	NOV 17	NOV 24	DEC 01	DEC 08	DEC 15	DEC 22	DEC 29	JAN 05
WAS	WAS	SAN	TAM	DEN	CHI	DET	DEN	DET	CHI
DAL	TAM	CHI	NOS	CAR	LAR	LAC	NOS	LAC	SEA
GBP	SEA	NEP	BUF	TEN	KAN	TEN	ATL	IND	LVR
TEN	LVR	CAR	HOU	NYJ	BAL	NYJ	LVR	LVR	HOU

CHECK RESULTS WEEKLY & ORDER ONLINE:
WWW.WVKOFC.ORG

2024 FOOTBALL FRENZY® FUNDRAISER

90
OVERALL CHANCES TO WIN!

PASTORAL COUNCIL : Anthony Gerard (Chairperson), Herman Hundley, Dianne Murphy, John Woods, Robert Littreal, Susan Woods, Andre Re, Rob Rosiek and Marty Mrozek.

FINANCE COUNCIL: Jim Lively (Chairperson), Mike Malay, Denise Light, Bill Klenk, Debbie Hatcher, Scott Vargo and Elizabeth Campbell, Natasha Mucho-Seay (Ex-officio)

If you have any concerns, please let our Council know



Relevant Radio was honored to be part of this once-in-a-lifetime experience. You can access all their video recordings and podcast coverage at RelevantRadio.com/NEC.

WV CATHOLIC RADIO BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOU

Berkeley Springs - Hancock, MD	FM	96.3
Berkeley Springs	FM	107.9
Clarksburg-Bridgeport	FM	97.5
Dunbar - Charleston	AM	1450
Eastern Panhandle - coming soon	FM	88.5
Grafton - Clarksburg	AM	1190
Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
Purgitsville	FM	98.7
St. Marys - Parkersburg	FM	105.3
Star City - Morgantown	FM	89.7
Summersville	FM	91.3
Wheeling - Martins Ferry, OH	FM	90.7
Weirton - Steubenville	FM	97.9

-Listen on LoL Stream at www.rdo.to/WLOL-

Saints Peter & Paul Parish Oak Hill, WV First Saturday Rosary

All are welcome to join Saints Peter & Paul parishioners at 4:45p.m. every first Saturday, to recite The Holy Rosary. This is an opportunity for you to participate in the mysteries of the Rosary as we get to know Jesus better through the eyes of His Most Blessed Mother.



In order to register, an engaged couple must be referred by their pastor, associate pastor or deacon who is assisting them in preparation for their marriage.

Register online at
Wheeling-
Charleston Retreats
or Go to <https://dwc.org>

UPCOMING DATES

Nov. 16-17, 2024
at St. John XXIII Pastoral
Center



“TEACH US TO PRAY”

Living the Year of Prayer in Preparation for Jubilee 2025

THE JUBILEE PRAYER

Father in heaven,
may the *faith* you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of *charity* enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity
and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen

Franciscus

WRITE TO LET YOUR SEMINARIANS KNOW YOU'RE PRAYING FOR THEM

Mount St. Mary's Seminary 16300 Old Emmitsburg Road, Emmitsburg, MD 21727



Dominic Re
Birthday:
February 10



Bryan Tedeschi
Birthday:
October 17



Travis Moger
Birthday:
June 25



Michael Aiello
Birthday:
September 16



Nathan Schmidt
Birthday:
January 20



Christian Davis
Birthday:
October 4



Andrew Dean
Birthday:
November 14

The Pontifical College Josephinum 7625 N High Street, Columbus, OH 43235



Timothy Kawash
Birthday:
July 22



Peter Russman
Birthday:
April 16



David Hensler
Birthday:
July 29



Donvito Cortese
Birthday:
August 30



Reece Lopatka
Birthday:
June 5



Sebastian Lasko
Birthday:
September 18

Pope St. John Paul II College Seminary 145 Taylor Street NE, Washington, DC 20017

**Pontifical North
American College
00120 Vatican
City State
Europe**



Michael J. Tupta
Birthday:
April 24



Joe Derico
Birthday:
February 16



Chris Nelson
Birthday:
December 4

**Pope St. John XXIII
National Seminary
558 South Avenue
Weston, MA 02493**



Clifton Mastran
Birthday:
May 1



DIocese of WHEELING-CHARLESTON



NATIONAL
**Eucharistic
Revival Year of Mission**

Walk +++
with One +++

Year of Mission = YOUR Year of Mission, WV

You. Yes, you!

Will YOU Answer the Call?

The National Eucharistic Revival is to energize each one of us!

Be an Instrument of the Good Shepherd

Jesus showed us just how deeply he cherishes every soul when he shared the parable of the Good Shepherd, who left the ninety-nine to seek out the one lost sheep. During this Year of Mission, he is inviting each of us to be his hands and feet in a special way, reaching out to those who are lost or have wandered away from his Church and accompanying them on their journey home. We call this initiative Walk with One.

Let's go, WV! The Year of Mission is really YOUR Year of Mission!

This isn't just a communal call—it's a personal one.

YOU are invited to be God's instrument in the life of one other person.

Here's how you can respond:

1. Identify Someone in a Spirit of Humility

Spend a little time in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to show you whom he wants you to accompany. It may be someone you already know needs your support, or the answer might surprise you!

2. Intercede for That Person

Lift them up in your prayers, asking God to prepare their heart for whatever he has in store. Stay attuned to the voice of the Holy Spirit and ask him to guide you in being a vessel of his grace.

3. Connect in Eucharistic Friendship

Just as Jesus tenderly carries the lost sheep back to the fold, we are called to build relationships rooted in compassion. Listen to their story. Share your own. This is not a one-time conversation. Walk alongside them, offering the support they need.

4. Invite That Person to Take a Concrete Step

Whether it's inviting them to join you for Mass, a

small group, or a service opportunity, the Holy Spirit will lead you in guiding the person he wants to call home to Christ and his Church.

Revival Walk with One

If every active Catholic brings just one person into an encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist, it will be a remarkable revival for our time! Not only will this journey change the person you are walking with, it will change your life as well.

Take a moment right now to quiet your heart and listen for Jesus. If you feel a nudge to commit to Walk with One, click below to let us know! We promise to support you with prayers, resources, and encouragement every step of the way.

GET STARTED

Keep following our diocesan social media, read your FaithInWV e-bulletin, and watch for the Catholic Spirit. In other words- let's all take ownership of our faith and lifelong growth to be closer to God!

START HERE: WWW.DWC.ORG and click our National Eucharistic Revival button.

Make it a great Year of Mission WV!

YOU!
Yes, you!

YOUR YEAR OF MISSION
YOUR YEAR OF MISSION
WALK WITH ONE
YOUR YEAR OF MISSION
YOUR YEAR OF MISSION

DIocese of
WHEELING-CHARLESTON
www.dwc.org
f @

Walk With One



Eucharistic Examen

This Eucharistic Examen is designed to be used as part of your "Walk with One" journey (see www.eucharisticrevival.org/walk-with-one for more info). Throughout each stage of the journey, pray this examen to help you discern the path the Lord is calling you to follow in accompanying another person towards Jesus.

Take

Opening Prayer: Ask God to help you be aware of his presence, to truly encounter him, and to open your heart to the person whom Jesus is bringing to mind.

Choose a Scripture passage in which Jesus calls a person by name, and sit with it. For example:

- Mt 4:18–22
- Mt 9:9–13
- Mt 14:22–33
- Mk 1:16–20
- Mk 2:13–17
- Lk 5:1–11
- Lk 5:27–32
- Lk 10:38–42
- Lk 13:10–17
- Lk 19:1–10
- Jn 1:35–42 and 43–51
- Jn 11:1–44 (esp. 43)
- Jn 15:1–17
- Jn 20:11–18
- Jn 21:15–19

Bless

Reflect on some aspect of the Paschal Mystery: Jesus' Passion and Death, Resurrection, or Ascension.

Ask Jesus to shower his love upon the person for whom you are interceding, and pray for the courage to accompany the person in a spirit of self-giving and openness.

Break

Considering your daily and weekly routines, ask the Lord to show you how to break out of your comfort zone to make space to connect with the person for whom you have been interceding.

Invite the Holy Spirit to identify the next best concrete step, and pray in thanksgiving for the opportunity to build a new friendship.

Give

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you practice the art of listening and discern a concrete invitation you can give to your friend to draw closer to Jesus. Make a resolution about how and when you will extend this invitation.

Closing Prayer: Ask Jesus to help you keep your resolution as you journey on mission with him, making a gift of yourself for the life of the world.

"You go to the celebration of Mass, receive communion, adore the Lord and then what do you do after? You go out and evangelize. Jesus asks this of us. The Eucharist, then impels us to strong and committed love of neighbor... especially those who are poor, suffering, weary or who may have gone astray in life." POPE FRANCIS to the Organizing Committee of the National Eucharistic Congress, 6/19/23



Walk With One

In the Scriptures, we hear over and over how Jesus invited people one by one to follow him. He also invites us to follow him more deeply and, just like him, to “walk with one” person to a new or renewed experience of God’s love.

Evangelization, or “bringing the Good News,” typically happens in one-on-one moments that are not planned or scripted. This can happen at the grocery store, the bus stop, or a sporting event. As Pope Francis has noted, “Anyone who has truly experienced God’s saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that love” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 120).

You might be asking yourself: Where do I start with inviting someone to take a step closer to Jesus? How might I invite them forward in their faith? Here’s a simple four-stage process of accompaniment that focuses on a “heart-to-heart” approach:

- 1. Identify someone in a spirit of humility**
- 2. Intercede for that person in communion with the Holy Spirit**
- 3. Connect in Eucharistic friendship**
- 4. Invite that person on a path most suitable for him or her**

Throughout each stage of your “Walk with One” journey, we encourage you to pray the Eucharistic Examen to help you discern the path the Lord is calling you to follow (you can find this examen at www.eucharisticrevival.org/walk-with-one). The bottom line is this: If you can open your heart to speak about how Jesus has touched your life, your heart will touch the heart of whomever the Holy Spirit leads you to accompany.

***By virtue of our Baptismal calling,
the Lord is sending each of us to give
witness to his saving love.***

STEP 1

Identify someone in a spirit of humility:

Prayerfully begin to discern whom God is calling you to accompany.

Before you begin the process of inviting someone into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church, spend time in prayer, inviting the Holy Spirit to guide you in this process. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you the person that he wants you to accompany. Consider going to Eucharistic adoration or committing to a period of silent prayer in a church to allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you.



STEP 2

Intercede for that person in communion with the Holy Spirit:

Pray for the grace to be able to accompany the person whom the Lord has laid on your heart.

Now that the Lord has identified a person whom you know, commit to pray for them for a specific period of time, asking God to open the opportunity for a conversation. Pray for any struggles the person might be facing with brokenness or sin, and for any obstacles that might impede this person from drawing closer to Jesus and exploring the Catholic faith more deeply. Consider offering a holy hour or a novena of prayer for that person.





STEP 3

Connect in Eucharistic friendship:

Look for ways to accompany the person you have prayed for, to build a deeper relationship, and to practice the art of empathetic listening.

Eucharistic friendship builds upon the dynamic that Jesus revealed in his relationships with the disciples and, above all, at the Last Supper—he takes bread, blesses it, breaks it, and gives it. It is important to take or receive what the other person has to share, to bless or lift it up in prayer, to let the Holy Spirit help break open an area for potential growth, and then to give of yourself in response. It is also important to recognize that this may not be a “one and done” conversation but is more likely to be a series of conversations and invitations, developing a real friendship with that person. Find an appropriate time to begin growing in your friendship, perhaps over coffee or lunch. Listen deeply for promptings from the Holy Spirit as you get to know your friend’s joys and struggles. Share with them some of your own.

Listen respectfully when the conversation turns to spiritual matters, including their relationship with God and questions or concerns about the Church, and reserve judgment about their opinions. Some people might be ready to discuss the spiritual life after only a conversation or two, while for others it might take more time.



STEP 4

Invite that person on a path most suitable for him or her:

Follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit to invite him or her to a concrete next step in fostering a personal relationship with Jesus and the Church.

It is important to remember that it may not be easy to invite a person to come to Mass, particularly someone who has been away for some time or someone who has had no religious formation. It may be better to begin with an invitation to a parish small group experience, a service opportunity, or a social event. For those who need healing or an experience of God's merciful love, an invitation to accompany them to the Sacrament of Reconciliation could be appropriate.

If you discern that inviting the person to Mass is the best next step, encourage them to come with you and your family or with a group of friends. Your invitation could be as simple as: "Our family/my friends and I always look forward to celebrating Sunday Mass. It is a source of strength and hope for us, and it reaffirms our trust in Jesus. My family/friends and I would love for you to come with us. We are going to the 10:30 am Mass at St. John Parish on Sunday, and you are welcome to come with us to Mass and to lunch afterwards. If you need a ride, let me know!"

If the person shuts down the conversation, do not take it personally. Maybe they are not yet ready. Follow up with a statement that keeps the door open. "I understand. Thank you for talking with me about this. If you ever want to talk about your faith, I am always here for you." No matter what the outcome is, keep persevering in your friendship and ask the Lord to continue to guide you. After every encounter, thank God for the conversations that you have been having and remember to keep this person in your prayers.

