



Rite of Accepting the Non-Baptized

The process of **Christian Initiation** is a gradual journey marked by a number of rituals and culminating at the Easter Vigil with **Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist**. At the 9:00am Mass on October 21, 2007 those seeking baptism (called **catechumens**) were accepted into the church and given the sign of the cross and claimed for Christ. They are now looking forward to their baptism in water at Easter.

This ritual is also intended to help each of us reflect on our own baptism. The ritual of being claimed for Christ and accepting the cross of Christ has more meaning as we progress on our faith journey. We might ask **“Do I truly accept the cross of Christ in my life?”** **“What does the cross of Christ mean?”** **“What does it mean to be claimed for Christ?”** and finally, **“How am I living out my baptismal commitment to follow Christ?”** Please keep these catechumens in your prayers as they continue their journey of faith. Introduce yourself to them and give them encouragement.

Gayle Dianne Hanks

Gayle is the mother of two incredible children and grandmother of two. Both of her husbands were Catholic and their children were baptized at St. Mark. She has lived next to St. Mark since 1974. Her parents were Lutheran but she was raised in a non-denomination environment. She has been surrounded by Catholics and always felt a pull to be baptized and has had a deep feeling of wanting faith. After looking at a number of churches, she realized that she needed the structure and ritual of the Catholic Church. Her next door neighbors, Gene and Maureen Sovar, were always there for her and because of their kindness she said, *“I saw in them what was missing in me.”* Gayle’s sponsor is Maureen Sovar.

Devin Andrew Rohrig

Devin is a 15 year old student at Shorewood High School. He was raised in a non-denominational Protestant home. After middle school he was attracted to more old fashioned Episcopal and Lutheran Churches. He was drawn to Catholicism by the strong tradition combined with orthodox doctrine, which he didn’t find at most Protestant congregations he attended. He first came to Mass at St. Mark on the invitation of Jennifer Ann Nielsen, a friend, and has come regularly since November 2006. Devin is being sponsored by Jim Anderson and Peter Beaulieu.