



Catholics Returning Home

Do you know someone who has been away from the Catholic Church for a while? Have you ever heard them thinking of returning, but they aren't sure they can, or if they should, or what to do? If so, we would like to welcome them back to their home, the Catholic Church. We would like to address their questions and make them feel at home once more in the Catholic Church. We would like to bring peace to any areas of frustration or hurt that may have caused them to leave the Church or just slowly stop coming to Mass. Whether they were hurt by a member of the clergy, by a lay person, went through a time of trial in their life and just fell away, got angry with God in a time of pain and crisis, or aren't even sure why they are away, we are here with open arms, ready to talk and listen.

A couple of times a year we have a special ministry for Catholics who have been away from the church, who have questions and are thinking about the possibility of returning. The Catholics Returning Home program is a series of four to six sessions which include the stories of returning Catholics, an opportunity for questions and answers, as well as an update on The Mass, The Eucharist, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and Vatican II and the Church Today. It is low pressure, and no decision to return is forced or expected.

The sessions are presented by a team of adults who have been away from the church, have happily returned and are now actively involved. Respect and compassion will always be demonstrated. If you know of someone who has been an inactive Catholic and has been thinking about returning to the Church, please let them know of this non-judgmental and loving opportunity. Send them a text inviting to them to come; tell them you'll come with them and sit there with them to listen; send them an email or give a phone call. Bump into them in your neighborhood, grocery store, kid's practice, school parking lot; share the Facebook post far and wide or send it by private message to someone you know and love who would be intrigued by the invitation. If you have any questions, please call Christine Shafer in the parish office at 616-891-9259 x224 or email cshafer@holyfamilycaledonia.org.

The Fall 2018 Catholics Returning Home will begin Sunday, Sept. 9 after 9am Mass in the Parish Library at Holy Family Church in Caledonia.