



Today, those men and women in our Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, (RCIA), program at St. Mary's will be participating in the Rite of Election at Holy Name Cathedral. This powerful prayer service unites those from St. Mary's with RCIA candidates and catechumens from across the Archdiocese. Please pray for all those preparing for entry into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil.

How patient are you? How patient is your God with you? What does your belief in God's patience or lack thereof tell you about the God that you pray to this Lent, and throughout your lives as one of God's beloved children? May these words become words you speak from your heart in prayer.

PATIENT TRUST

Above all, trust in the slow work of God.
We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay.
We should like to skip the intermediate stages.
We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new.

And yet it is the law of all progress
that it is made by passing through some stages of instability—
and that it may take a very long time.

And so, I think it is with you;
your ideas mature gradually—let them grow,
let them shape themselves, without undue haste.

Don't try to force them on,
as though you could be today what time
(that is to say, grace and circumstances acting on your own good will)
will make of you tomorrow.

Only God could say what this new spirit
gradually forming within you will be.
Give Our Lord the benefit of believing
that his hand is leading you,
and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself
in suspense and incomplete. — *Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ*

I am excited to share that during Lent the Church of St. Mary will be participating, along with all the other parishes in the Archdiocese, in a survey conducted by the Catholic Leadership Institute. The survey allows parishioners to reflect on their own spiritual growth and discipleship, and also identify ways in which the parish can support that growth. The survey is accessible online and in paper form (at the church entrances and also the Parish Office) from Ash Wednesday, February 22, to March 31. All responses will be anonymous and the parish will only receive a summary of all responses in total - no individual responses will be reported. It only takes 10-15 minutes to complete, so please take a bit of time to do the survey. Results will greatly support the plans of the Archdiocese for the future. Now through March 31, you can follow this link: portal.catholicleaders.org/dmi/survey/g56ykg to complete the survey.

We welcome Mr. Greg Kozak back to St. Mary's. Greg shared a prayerful reflection on living the Eucharist the "Other 167" in the days of the Advent season last year. Join us at 3:00pm this Sunday or Monday evening (February 27) at 7:00pm in the church. And bring a friend to this Lenten Adult Enrichment presentation to help us reflect on "The Other 167: How the Mass impacts the rest of my week in Lent." How is God calling us to "love sacrificially" in our lives? This is the second of three presentations that Greg will offer the parishioners and friends of St. Mary's. He will conclude his series with a presentation in the Easter season.

A reminder - 5:00pm Mass on Sunday will take place during Lent.

Thanks for your support of the "Walking on the Road with Jesus" 2023 Annual Catholic Appeal of the Archdiocese.

May we be guided by God's grace this Lent,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Mike". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.