

Name: Kristina Nelson



Why do I go to Mass?

Quite honestly, the main reason I go to Mass is that I enjoy it. But there is more to it than just enjoyment. For me, Mass is like the meat and potatoes of Catholicism. Remember when your parents used to make you eat at least your meat and potatoes? Why? Because those two parts of the meal contained the majority of the nutrition you needed to be healthy. Mass gives me what I need to be spiritually healthy. Mass gives me a renewed sense of joy each week and helps me to continue with whatever it is God has planned for me. I also feel a sense of obligation to go to Mass. God sent us His only Son to teach us about the nature of God and His goodness. Then, God allowed His Son to perish on the cross to save us! And, if all that wasn't enough, He continues to love us, even when we don't acknowledge it. I feel like Sunday Mass is the very least I can do to thank God and Jesus for the limitless gifts they provide to us each day.

Why am I Catholic?

I think our primary job as Catholics is to be Christian, and Catholicism helps me be just that – a follower of Christ. I was baptized and confirmed Lutheran before I joined the Catholic Church three years ago. Until I started exploring the Catholic faith, I had always felt something was missing. I found that to be a true connection with Christ through the Sacraments. To me, the Catholic faith is the ultimate connection with our Heavenly Father. The Catholic Church was founded by the disciples that *knew* Jesus while He was on Earth. They walked with Him, prayed with Him, learned from Him and were charged by Him to start His church. How sweet is that?! I feel in my heart that Mass is truly how Jesus wants us to encounter Him and learn His teachings. I think it is so cool that you can look at any part of Mass and see how it preserves the traditions from the Bible. I am awestruck that nearly all aspects of the Catholic faith encourage love towards God and our neighbors. The Catholic faith helps me continually discover the meaning of Christianity and brings me closer to God. So, really, I choose to be Catholic because it feels right for me and because I want to be a better Christian.

What do I like about St. Margaret Mary's?

Andrew, my husband, and I both really like St. Margaret Mary's. Father Mike is a great priest. I like him because he isn't intimidating to talk to. His homilies hold my attention, and I often relate to his message. But, St. Margaret Mary's offers much more than just a great priest. The community was very welcoming from the first time we visited; the music is always great; and the parish is made up of people of all ages — newly-weds like Andrew and me, families with kids, empty nesters and older folks as well.