Our Lady of Grace Church

by Brittany Houghtalen

Each Sunday morning, we file our family of five into the Day chapel at Our Lady of Grace church. We give smiles and warm hellos to those we pass on the way in before nestling among our church family to celebrate Mass. We marvel at the two families with six children who sit in front of us each week. We exchange a few words with the kind couple who sit beside us and allow our children to place their offertory envelope in the collection basket. As we celebrate and praise God, we receive understanding smiles from other families who know what it is like to be in church with young children who have not yet mastered the art of a whisper. Even though we do not know everyone's name, we feel at ease there because the parishioners of Our Lady of Grace are our church family.

Our Lady of Grace is our home. As an infant, I was baptized there. I received my First Holy Communion there, was confirmed there, and knew eventually I wanted to be married there. Knowing that, my future husband, Bryan, registered there as a young adult one year prior to our engagement. Since being married at Our Lady of Grace in 2009, we have been blessed to welcome Mason, Addison and Parker into our family. Shortly after their births, we welcomed each of them into our church family through baptism at Our Lady of Grace. Our amazing church community is comprised of wonderful people who love God, love one another and are always looking for new ways to grow in faith and to serve the greater community. We are given countless opportunities to be active members, but more importantly, we are given the choice to participate as we are able and desire to participate. There is no judgment passed when we choose not to participate or volunteer for any particular program. Currently, our family has chosen to donate to the monthly food pantry collection. Our children love going through our pantry or taking a special trip to the grocery store to purchase necessary items. We donate to the yearly Christmas Dinner Bag program, where we assemble all the necessities for a Christmas dinner for a family of four. (Seeing the room full of filled bags is one of our favorite sights of the season!) In addition, our children love to select an angel from the Christmas Angel Tree to shop for presents for a local child in need. My husband and I often talk about the various ways we hope to get more involved in the church as our children grow. Personally, I have an interest in volunteering for the food pantry distribution, serving as a lector and participating in the Christ Life Evangelization program. I know when I am ready, these programs and others will be available to me. There are so many choices that there is truly something for everyone at Our Lady of Grace. Teaching the youth of our parish about our Catholic faith is an important component of our parish life.

Our oldest son participates in the wonderful formation program that breaks down our faith into easily digestible lessons

for school-age children. An extension of the program is IGNITE dinners, inter-generational nights where entire families come together for dinner, prayer and lessons in faith. Our children really enjoy doing this together as a family. In addition, our oldest son looks forward to attending Vacation Bible School each summer through our Partner Parish of St. Benedict. With a full-time youth minister on staff, Our Lady of Grace has an amazing program for youth and young adults in our parish community. I know one day my children will find a home in that program and will love participating in the various events and activities they have to offer.

When summertime vacations or other weekend activities take us to other churches, we always breathe a sigh of comfort and relief when we return home to Our Lady of Grace where we can count on being inspired by the homily and being uplifted by quality music. That level of comfort and belonging is something we have not felt at any other church. Our Lady of Grace is our home.

The parish community is our church family. Come join us.

Our Lady of Grace Church
1001 Mt Pleasant Rd
Greensburg, PA 15601
(724) 838-9480

Mass is celebrated Saturday evenings at 4:00 p.m. and on Sunday mornings at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.