

Welcome New Parish Members

Sean Cooley, a candidate for Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) this Easter season, remembers how embarrassed he was when his 7-year-old son **Declan** came home from St. Francis Borgia School and knew more about his faith than his father. "We were impressed by how much he was absorbing at school and so we started going to church," said Cooley, who was baptized in the Methodist church but never practiced. "It took us a couple of years, but we finally re-evaluated everything and said let's do this."



Sean, Declan and mom Melissa will be front and center at the Easter Vigil Mass on Saturday April 23 with six other RCIA participants who have chosen to join the Catholic Church and join St. Francis Borgia. For **Melissa Cooley**, having her son grow up with a strong faith identity is something she wished for when she was growing up. "We've enjoyed the process and the sense of community with the church," she said. "We will absolutely continue on our journey after Easter."

Ellen Vanden Eykel, Director of Adult and Family Ministry at SFB, said each RCIA participants story is unique - but all are alike in their desire for a greater relationship with the Catholic faith. "There's three young siblings preparing as their family comes back to the Church; a young husband and father joining his wife and recently baptized baby; a husband and father of a blended family whose daughters came through RCIA last year; and a husband and father with three young daughters who looks forward to joining his family in receiving the Eucharist each Sunday at Mass," she said.

To see the names of the newly initiated, please see [Fr. Tom Eichenberger's column](#) from the March 27, 2011 SFB Bulletin.

- From the April/Easter 2011 issue of the eMessenger newsletter.