



MESSENGER



CONVERSION OF THE HEART

Catholic was not on my radar screen.

“I took the long road to figure things out,” says 37-year-old Ashley Oliver, wife and mother of five children. As a youngster, Ashley grew up Protestant and attended a lot of different denominations, but she never felt like she was in the right place. Since age seven, Ashley had read the Bible but never really got it. She spent many years searching.

She married and along the way her husband, who was not Catholic, began listening to St. Gabriel Radio and commenting to Ashley about the things that he heard there. “You need to stop listening to that. You’re filling your head with the wrong ideas,” was Ashley’s response.

Ashley’s only real exposure to Catholicism had been a wedding Mass. “People stood, so I stood. They sat down, so I sat down.”

In the meantime, the family became involved in a local Protestant church’s Vacation Bible School. Still, Ashley was searching. She felt that they needed to attend elsewhere and expressed this concern to her husband. He said, “If we’re going

to try a new church, we will check out the Mass at St. Joan of Arc.” Ashley was definitely not on board. Her only real exposure to Catholicism had been a wedding Mass. “People stood, so I stood. They sat down, so I sat down,” she recalls.

A CATHOLIC FAMILY MODELS CHRIST.

“Show them by your behavior, don’t push your faith,” was never truer than in Ashley’s life. “We began vacationing with a family that has six children. The family was Catholic. Today, I see that this was more than a coincidence. That family taught us so much about the Catholic way of life just by being with them over the course of several vacations.

“I also was invited to participate in a Catholic Bible study program, *Walking with Purpose*. I resisted, but the subject just kept coming up. I was nudged by God for four weeks.” In her search for answers about the Catholic Faith, Ashley called the friend she vacationed with for advice. “My friend explained the Eucharist, the honor- not worship - given to saints.” At the end of the call, Ashley decided to go to the Catholic Bible study because the parish offered free childcare and she felt the need for fellowship. “God won! So, I ended up in this Catholic Bible study. The women in the group were so welcoming! I told them, ‘I’m not Catholic,’ at the outset and they didn’t blink an eye! The course was refreshing but still I was not sure.

“When my journey into the Catholic Church started, it was my husband who was listening to St. Gabriel Radio. My Bible study program turned the table for me. So, I started listening to St. Gabriel Radio. I wanted to know just what the Catholic Church had to say about Christianity. I was hearing lots of different, confusing things about Catholicism from the people around me. I always seemed to be in the car running errands and picking up children in the afternoon so I was able to listen to *Called to Communion with Dr. David Anders*, (2:00 P.M. weekdays). *Catholic Answers live* (6:00 P.M. weekdays) is another program that helped me. The hosts encourage non-Catholics to call in, and the callers seemed to pose the same questions that I had! It was really cool to hear the faith concerns of people who were Protestant and the answers from the Catholic perspective.”

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[CONTINUED]



“AM 820 gets me safely to and from work daily! I benefit far more from AM 820 than my morning cup of coffee!!”

– Sue in Newark, OH

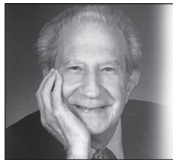
VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Debbie Braun loves volunteering at St. Gabriel Radio because, “The programs are the perfect pick-me-up with spot-on insights when struggling

with a challenge.” Debbie has lent many hours to projects like the Spirit Drive phone bank, preparing books for RCIA candidates, and general office help. Thank you, Debbie!

LOCAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT



SACRED SOUNDINGS
with Al Romano

Al Romano introduces sacred sounds recorded by religious orders, on St. Gabriel Radio, Sundays at 9:30 A.M. and 2:30 P.M. Also online at StGabrielRadio.com.

CCL GAME-OF-THE-WEEK SCHEDULE

Date	Game
August 30	St. Charles @ Dublin Scioto
September 6	West Jefferson vs. Bishop Ready
September 13	Gahanna @ Bishop Hartley
September 20	Newark Catholic @ Watkins Memorial
September 27	Clinton Massie @ Bishop Hartley
October 4	Bishop Watterson @ St. Francis DeSales
October 11	Harvest Prep vs. Bishop Ready
October 18	Bishop Hartley @ Bishop Watterson
October 25	Steubenville @ St. Francis DeSales
November 1	Bishop Watterson @ St. Charles



EWTN

Global Catholic Network

CONVERSION OF THE HEART [CONTINUED]

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS THE MASS.

At Christmas, Ashley’s husband asked her, “What would you like as a Christmas gift?” “I want to attend a Mass,” answered Ashley. So, they went to a midnight Mass. “It was so cool! It opened my eyes!” exclaims Ashley as she savors that evening.

“Next, I read *Rome Sweet Home* by Scott Hahn and began to see my life as a big puzzle with a piece missing. I had it all, the loving husband, the wonderful family, the great life. The Catholic Faith was the missing piece. I began to feel at home in the Faith but this time, it was my husband who was not convinced.” The Church scandals in the media were a big hurdle.

“I began praying and bought a rosary at the Generations Religious Gifts store with a gift card so that no one would know. I began going to a 7:30 A.M. Mass, then on to the Protestant service with my family. I felt confused because my husband was not on the same page about making this major change. I also knew that I had to put God’s calling first in my life.”

“I began praying and bought a rosary at the Generations Religious Gifts store with a gift card so that no one would know.”

Ashley asked God, “Where should my family be going? I don’t want to have my family torn apart and to be pulled away from my husband, children, and extended family. My primary vocation is wife and mom.”

Sitting in Mass one day praying about this, a rose-scented perfume seemed to surround Ashley. She looked around to find out who was wearing this divine fragrance, so pleasing and intense! Ashley found no one near her. She was alone. “I knew then and there that my family is in God’s hands.”

“As the Eucharistic procession approached, I was overwhelmed by the presence of Jesus.”

I THREW MYSELF ON THE FLOOR.

In 2018, Ashley decided to attend the Columbus Catholic Women’s Conference. “As the Eucharistic procession approached, I was overwhelmed by the presence of Jesus. I felt compelled to throw myself on the floor. My longing for the Eucharist became

intense and at the same time, Jesus revealed to me, ‘Lord I am not worthy that You enter under my roof but only say the Word and my soul shall be healed.’” These loving words continue to echo in Ashley’s heart.

In this, Jesus gave Ashley the courage and patience to wait for a year and a half to enter the Church and go through the Rites of Election and Acceptance and to receive the Sacrament of Confession. “I had a countdown app for Easter Vigil in 2019, the Big Day of my Confirmation and first Holy Communion. I realized that when God calls, you don’t worry about how things will unfold. If God is calling you to do something, allow Him to deal with the consequences.”

“When God calls, you don’t worry about how things will unfold.”

THE DIVINE FRAGRANCE OF THE BLESSED MOTHER

During a session of *Walking with Purpose*, she met “the Saint Lady” who took statues of saints to the Parish School of Religion (PSR) at St. Joan of Arc. Ashley recalls the

CONVERSION OF THE HEART

day that the Saint Lady shared a special blessing with her Bible study group. The Saint Lady said, "I have these rose petals from a special Mass that were used for a special blessing. They come from unscented roses." The rose petals had different images on them - the Holy family, the Last Supper, Christ. As the rose petals were passed around, the room was filled once again with that heavenly rose scent. Ashley remembers, "The Saint Lady told us that smelling the rose fragrance like that is a special blessing from the Blessed Virgin Mary!"

As Ashley explored the Catholic Faith, she had lots of questions, especially about Baptism and godparents. "I was hearing different ideas about both subjects from people around me. Just how should we go about picking godparents for our children? I didn't want just some random person. In fact, the people who I wanted to choose as godparents lived in another state. So, I phoned in to *Called to Communion* and asked my questions. I was so happy to get a sound perspective on how to do this. What I heard on St Gabriel Radio made this process understandable."

ALL FOR HIS GLORY

And so, things unfolded for the greater glory of God. The same year, 2018, Ashley's husband attended the Columbus Catholic Men's Conference. By Easter 2019, the whole family had entered the Church.

"At first, the children had to do catch up in Catholic Faith formation and learn the Catholic Traditions. The transition was not easy and as a family we have lost some friends along the way. The sacraments, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the saints were difficult for the kids to wrap their heads around. Now, they like going to Mass and have made new friends. My 12-year-old wanted to be Catholic right along with me from the beginning. All five kids chose to be baptized in the Catholic Church. The first grader is excited about PSR and the 4-year-old can't wait to go."

"God has changed the hearts of my family. Our journey has changed us for the better."

Ashley says, "God has changed the hearts of my family. Our journey has changed us for the better. I'm involved in *Mom's Ministry* and Bible study. And when I most need it spiritually, it seems that the fragrance of roses envelops me in a hug."

"We used to listen to different Christian radio stations in our home. Now the radio is always on AM 820. I love starting my day listening to Fr. Riccardo (8:00 A.M. weekdays). Our kids listen sometimes too, and especially like the programs when kids call in to ask questions. These programs on St. Gabriel Radio help us reach a deeper understanding of Catholic traditions."

"*Walking with Purpose* is what threw me into Catholic Church and I have continued with that the last two years. I'm excited about leading a small group within this Bible study next year! *Mom's Ministry* at St. Joan of Arc is another place where I'm involved serving on the leadership team planning events," Ashley explains. In fact, parish life is at the heart of Ashley's family life. She helps with PSR for children and hopes to be able to serve as a teaching assistant in the future. She and her husband also attend the *Marriage Ministry* program once monthly.

"Perfection isn't possible, but Holiness is," is Ashley's motto.

FALL SPIRIT DRIVE

September 18, 19, & 20

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SUSTAINING MEMBERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

SACRED HEART CONGRESS

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 16, 2019
7:30 A.M. - 12:15 P.M.

**ST. MICHAEL
CHURCH**
WORTHINGTON, OH



FRIDAY NIGHT HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL BEGINS AUG. 30TH



6:00 *Catholic High School
Football Preview Show*
with Doug Lessells and Ryan Baker

7:00 *Catholic High School
Football Game-of-the-Week*
with Randy Rhinehart and Larry Wolf

**AFTER
THE
GAME** *High School Football
Scoreboard Show*
Scores and highlights presented
by ThisWeekSports.com

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MISSION STATEMENT

St. Gabriel Catholic Radio's mission is to reach more souls with quality programming that is faithful to the teachings of the Church and presented in a way that inspires conversion of heart and a deepening faith while building up the local Body of Christ.

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**“BLESSED MOTHER, IN YOUR IMMACULATE HEART, BE THE
REFUGE OF SINNERS AND THE WAY THAT LEADS TO GOD.”
- POPE FRANCIS**