

How does Bread of Life's change in status affect all of us at Saint Joseph Church Bread of Life Community?

Great question! First, as people have joined Saint Joseph Bread of Life over the years, each person joined both communities. You joined the parish church of Saint Joseph and the Catholic charismatic community of Bread of Life. You have always been members of both communities.

Bread of Life, in conjunction with Faith On Fire! (the diocesan Office of Charismatic Renewal) has always hosted as many of their events, including luncheons, healing Masses, and holy hours, at the parish as was feasible. Bread of Life has the intention of continuing to host Spirit-filled and life-giving events open to all people of the diocese, but especially to members of our host parish of Saint Joseph.

When Bread of Life was moved to Saint Joseph we brought our beautiful contemporary worship style to the 10am Sunday Mass, which was the Bread of Life Mass. That beautiful Mass that we all love still carries the anointing and expression that Bread of Life worship has always had. It has always drawn people to Bread of Life in our days before moving to St Joseph, and to Saint Joseph Bread of Life after we were joined together. As we move on together, we know that God will continue to bless the richly worship experience.

There is a beautiful oneness between our two communities. This unity is through the Holy Spirit and it honors Jesus' prayer "that they may be one, as I and the Father are one. I in Thee and they in Me." As the Bishop re-affirms the unique purpose and charism of Bread Of Life Community, our great desire is to honor the prayer of Jesus and maintain the beautiful oneness with St Joseph's while being true to that unique identity, charism, and mission set forth by Bishop Troutman in 1990 and re-affirmed by Bishop Persico.

To this end, to reiterate, currently, everyone who is a member of St Joseph Bread of Life already is a member of both communities. When you joined Saint Joseph Bread of Life, you joined both communities. However, from this point onward, since Bread of Life is not a stand-alone parish, it is anticipated that new members who join Bread of Life will also be members of a primary parishes (including St Joseph), even if their preferred style and place of worship is with Bread Of Life.

Also, if for any reason you desire to be dropped from Bread of Life membership this can easily be done. We simply ask that you place your name on a piece of paper into the collection basket indicating your request to be removed from official membership.

I am concluding the second of the series of informational bulletin inserts with official language regarding the stated name and purpose of Bread of Life Catholic Charismatic Community (BOLCCC) as established by Bishop Persico after much work by diocesan and BOLCCC leadership.

In addition, the official section on membership benefits and expectations for BOLCCC is also included.

It is an exciting time. In a final installment, I will share more interesting information on the wonderful discipleship and spiritual growth opportunities that BOLCCC will bring to the diocese, but especially to Saint Joseph and our other family parishes.

May God continue to richly bless all our communities and their future endeavors as He guards our unity!

Jacqueline Phillips-Sabol, PhD, ABPP-CN

Moderator

Bread of Life Catholic Charismatic Community

I. ECCLESIAL AND CANONICAL STRUCTURE

Art. 1. Name and Purpose

Bread of Life Catholic Charismatic Community (BOLCCC) is a Public Association of the Faithful which promotes Catholic charismatic renewal and Divine Worship in the charismatic tradition and experience in the Erie, Pennsylvania area.

Art. 2. Constitution and Canonical Erection

BOLCCC was established as a Public Association of the Faithful in the Diocese of Erie by the Diocesan Bishop, Lawrence T. Persico, JCL, on August 22, 2026. It has public juridic personality according to canons 116-123 of the Code of Canon Law. It is governed by these statutes and, by analogy, by canons 298-320 of the Code of Canon Law, as well as by the other universal norms of Church law.

II. OBJECTIVES

Art. 3. Objectives

§ 1. BOLCCC exists to share the grace of the fullness of the Holy Spirit experienced by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal around Erie, Pennsylvania. Its goal is to share the good news of the Gospel and empower the Church through the exercise of the charisms of the Holy Spirit.

§ 2. In addition to regular Divine Worship in the Eucharistic celebration, the members will also participate in outreach to both Catholics and non-Catholics to encourage them to seek guidance from the Holy Spirit. They will also go out, as Jesus commanded, proclaiming the Kingdom of God.

In the same spirit of disclosing official information the next section contains official language outlines official language for continuing membership of BOLCCC contained in the approved statutes determined by the diocesan and BOLCCC leadership:

IV. MEMBERSHIP AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Art. 10. Enrollment

§ 1. Those seeking to enroll in BOLCCC are to be baptized Catholics. They shall participate in the Introductory Membership Class, which will be scheduled periodically throughout the year. Upon completion of this class, each person must formally request to be enrolled in BOLCCC, which makes them part of the General Assembly.

§ 2. Any person may request to be removed from the General Assembly at any time and for any reason. This terminates his or her membership in BOLCCC.

Art. 11. Continuing Formation

§ 1. To be considered a member of the General Assembly in good standing, each member must display an interest in contributing to the mission of BOLCCC by attending a majority of the Masses and events offered by the association each year. Absence due to age, illness, or some other grave cause shall not affect membership status.

§ 2. To deepen their knowledge of the charisms of the Holy Spirit, each member is expected to attend a Life in the Spirit Seminar. After completion, they are then to participate in a Fan into Flame Seminar to practice exercising the charisms. Each seminar will be offered regularly by BOLCCC.

§ 3. Each member of BOLCCC is expected to participate regularly in a charismatic prayer group as part of his or her ongoing formation in the Spirit. BOLCCC will maintain a list of active groups and provide assistance in joining or establishing a prayer group. This requirement can be dispensed by the Moderator for a just cause.

What does it mean for events and Masses?

Bread Of Life has a unique charism of expressing the Gifts of the Holy Spirit during Mass, specifically during particular times of worship so that it remains free in the Holy Spirit, but also orderly. This unique charism is much like having a particular community set aside who worships in using the traditional Latin Mass (TLM).

Bread Of Life has been co-hosting events with the diocesan office of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, which is Faith On Fire!, for the past two years. As we move forward, this partnership will continue, but there will also be events hosted by Bread Of Life, such as regular prayer groups.

A strength of Bread Of Life has been the emphasis on learning and discipleship. In the past, members of Bread Of Life were also members of weekly or bi-weekly prayer groups. The love of God was apparent in all of these groups. It was as if we were living in the book of Acts where it says that “they were all in one accord.” We loved each other. We helped each other. We worshipped and prayed together. And we saw God move in powerful ways. God blessed us with many miracles.

An important part of discipleship has been to provide people with opportunities to experience the wonderful baptism in the Holy Spirit. For so many people in the Catholic and Protestant churches, this has been a life-changing and pivotal time in their faith walk. It is as if we saw in only shades of black and white before the baptism and after we saw in living color for the first time. Regardless of whether baptism in the Holy Spirit took place 3 years ago or 30 years ago, most speak in terms of life before they were baptized in the Holy Spirit versus life after. It is as Jesus said... “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.” We experienced the power of God through the Holy Spirit and none of us will ever be the same. We are not perfect, but we are all changed by the touch of God.

The overarching mission of Bread Of Life Community is to provide opportunities for people to experience the Living God of the universe in powerful ways and to foster a heart-to-heart relationship with the Trinity through the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit. We want to see a Catholic Church that is as alive in Christ as is possible! We have continually sought God for revival within the Catholic Church in our diocese and Bread Of Life is ready to step into the role of facilitating that in whatever ways the Holy Spirit leads. We will be overjoyed to have you join us.

What does revival look like?

One of the ‘words’ we have received as we have prayed for Bread Of Life over many years is “Remember.” Just as God did not want the Israelites to forget how God had mightily moved among them to deliver them out of Egypt and lead them through the desert, He also prompted us not to forget. We have said over and over again,

“We remember. Do it again, Lord!” I know it is hard to related to other people’s memories, but I will do my best to share some of what revival looked like.

We constantly experienced people coming to Mass at BOL for the first time and saying, “there is something different about this place. I feel so much love here.”

We had glorious Mass that were not limited to one hour. The time flew by and afterwards, no one wanted to leave.

As we had Mass and other events and worshipped Jesus, the presence of the Holy Spirit would palpably envelope the whole church like the cloud of glory that would descend upon the temple in the Old Testament. There is a beautiful Midnight Mass memory of the lights being low after Communion and singing “I Exalt Thee” for 15 minutes. You could feel the worship swell and ease and swell and ease, etc., with beautiful periods of people singing together in a symphony of tongues. No one planned it. The Holy Spirit led it and we followed and it is burned into my memory forever.

Prayer groups met regularly in people’s homes. We would worship and we would read the Word and discuss it and pray. We would always start with a basic plan, but from there, the Holy Spirit would take over. The groups had an ending time for anyone who needed to leave, but not infrequently, there would still be people lingering and continuing to pray until well after midnight. This is when we saw Jesus’ robes passing through our midst. And there were times when a beautiful odor of sanctity would waft strongly through the room. There were times when the joy of the Lord would be so present that a holy laughter would break out and people would belly laugh until their sides hurt. We laid hands on the sick and many were healed. We comforted the grieving. We supported and exhorted one another in love when necessary. We experienced both joys and trials as a community. But above all we loved each other with the love of God.

Even as we have faithfully said... “unless Your Presence goes with us we will not go.”

One of the

While we were not without our trials, that love of Jesus that so prevalent in us remains the defining characteristic of Bread Of Life, and also of St Joseph Church Bread Of Life Community.

In the years before Bread Of Life became housed at St Joseph’s

1Cor 12: 4 Gifts of the Spirit

The nature of God is the love of God that flows. It’s who we are. God is love.

Everyone is a member.

Feast day: unity and clarifications, process in the banner, have a new banner made

Something different. They feel they know it they want it. Katie's mom. I belong to Sacred Heart, but there is just something here that is so good. At the bakery. Healing Mass. It was the most incredible experience I have ever had. When are you having another one. People need an experience with the living God. Not just in your head but in your heart.

Prayer groups: TA: Monday 1- 6:30 and 3 meal at 5:30 and prayer group is 6:30 Monday

Pat: Tuesday every other Tuesday: 6:30-8:30 at Holy Rosary

Jaci Wednesdays every other at 6. Phone numbers or email.

Sharon: Sacred Heart

Life IN The Spirit in the fall: November

Diocesan LIS

We would go and eat together because we wanted to keep sharing our fellowship with each other. Sometimes people would stay until 3 or 3:30 in the morning and some people would have to be at work.