

## A Story of Transformed Lives from St. Patrick Parish

From: Will and Gina Chapman

We are Will and Gina Chapman, from Ottawa, IL. We are the parents of four grown children, Candy, Liz, Spencer, and Melanie and have one granddaughter named Charlotte.

We were told about St. Patrick's from a friend. We first attended St. Pat's in the summer of 2019. Even though Gina was a cradle Catholic and Will was a Baptist, it felt like home right away. We enjoyed Father Matt and Deacon Doug. Everyone was really friendly. We loved the music and the message after coming the first time. After coming over the summer, we decided we wanted to join the parish, so we made an appointment with Father Matt. He was very welcoming and talked to us about our options, but never pushed anything.



*Will and Gina Chapman on the day of Will's First Communion and Confirmation*

After seeing some advertisements in the bulletin about ALPHA, we were intrigued and wanted to try it out. Week after week, we were so impressed with how much we were loving it and meeting so many great friends. It was perfect for us, as it wasn't about being Catholic, but coming to Jesus! After going for many weeks, we had our Saturday all day ALPHA. We were both moved by the Holy Spirit that day and were never the same again.

After seeing information about RCIA in the bulletin, Will decided that day that he would like to become Catholic. We joined the RCIA class and started the Thursday night meetings. We were able to have our marriage blessed in September and Easter for us, came in October, when Will finally received the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation and became a Catholic!

We are so thankful for St Pat's for being such an awesome part of our lives. We never imagined how close we would still feel to church even though most weeks during the pandemic, we celebrated Mass at home, but we do. We have also been attending the ALPHA CONNECT meetings via Zoom, meeting more new friends and staying connected.



**St. Patrick**  
**Parish**