

## 10. How do I Learn More?

While people with Roman Catholic backgrounds may initially question or feel uncomfortable about attending an Independent Catholic Church, we have found that by breaking bread with us at both Eucharist and during fellowship our “oneness in Christ’s love” becomes evident. You learn more by asking questions of our members and our clergy. We are here for one another. We’re open to explaining anything we can.



**WE BELIEVE THIS IS HIS VISION FOR US:**  
To be a people, transformed by God's love, who passionately desire to glorify God and see everyone meet with Jesus, hear from Jesus, and respond to Jesus.

**THE GREAT COMMANDMENT:** 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

*Matthew 22:37-39*

**OUR MISSION:** We are called to Love God, Love People and Make Disciples.

**THE GREAT COMMISSION:** “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

*Matthew 28:19-20*

## Our Weekly Liturgy

Abiding Presence celebrates the Eucharist at 10 am each Sunday. We currently worship in our pastor’s residence located at 5330 Poinsetta Ave, Winter Park, FL 32792

We also welcome you to join us on Zoom or via YouTube live. A link is available on the home page of our website for YouTube and contact info on our clergy may also be located there.

[www.apfcwp.com](http://www.apfcwp.com)



## Abiding Presence Faith Community Welcomes You!

We are part of the Reformed Catholic Church, an inclusive and self-governing church. We are similar in our liturgy, sacraments, and apostolic succession, to the larger Roman church, but differ in our desire for inclusion of all people regardless of marital status, gender identity, or other human distinctions that lead to exclusion.

We profess a more progressive evolutionary theology, ordain women and men, offer open communion, and affirm and welcome members of the LGBTQ+ Community. We believe that God accepts us all and calls everyone to participate in the life and leadership of the church.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is a Jurisdiction

In the Reformed Catholic Church, a jurisdiction is a territory over which religious authority is exercised under the servant leadership of a bishop, with everyone called to participate in the life and leadership of the Church. The RCC has a Council composed of bishops, priests, and laity who meet regularly to make decisions about how the church is run.

### 2. What does “Apostolic Succession” mean?

The consecration of bishops involves anointing with holy oil and a “laying on of hands” by a bishop in an unbroken sequence that extends back to the original 12 apostles who were Christianity’s first bishops. This unbroken succession is called “Apostolic Succession.” The RCC is an apostolic church because it can trace the consecration of its bishops back to the 12 Apostles.

### 3. When/How did the lines of succession break from the original Catholic Church?

The greater Catholic Church has split several times, generally over matters of discipline and governance, more rarely over matters of faith. The two largest splits (schisms) are those with the

Eastern Orthodox in 1054 and with the Anglican Communion in 1534. Both of these Churches can properly be called Catholic. Other Independent Catholic Churches were formed after some European bishops broke with the Roman Catholic Church in 1879.

### 4. Why haven’t I heard about the Independent Catholic movement before?

It’s still small, having lost some crucial membership between World War II and the 1990s. The internet has brought new energy to the movement with new ways of letting people know that we exist. Most Independent Catholic groups have websites and participate in social media. The ICC movement hasn’t gotten much national publicity. As you might expect the Roman Catholic Church has little or nothing to say about it. Yet we’re still out there.

### 5. Are the divorced welcome?

Everyone, without exception, is welcome in the Independent Catholic Churches. The bishops and clergy of the RCC believe that divorce should not be an unscalable wall between divorced people and the sacraments which could comfort and heal them.

### 6. What about married priests?

The Independent Catholics treat celibacy as a special calling, not a requirement. Many of our clergy are in loving committed marriages.

### 7. Who can be ordained?

In the independent Catholic Movement gender is not an impairment to ordination. Any person feeling the Call of Christ to ministry should speak with their pastor and vocations director.

### 8. What is the position of the Reformed Catholic Church on birth control?

Virtually every jurisdiction has ruled that birth control is a matter of conscience.

### 9. How can I become part of Abiding Presence?

Abiding Presence was founded in 2020. We are small but very cohesive. We love to welcome new members to share in our efforts to “Make God’s Love Known in Central Florida.” We invite you to Come and See us for Eucharist on Sunday in person or via one of our streaming services.