

RCIA



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

RCIA is a **PROCESS** by which an adult is fully initiated (brought) into the church.

WHO COMES TO RCIA?

1. Adults who **have not been baptized** in the Trinitarian form (“In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”) and who seek baptism within the Catholic Church.
2. Adults **who have been baptized in another faith tradition** and want to make their Profession of Faith in the Catholic Church and receive the Sacraments Confirmation and Eucharist for full initiation into the Catholic Church.
3. Adults **who have been baptized in the Catholic Church** and have not received the Sacraments of Initiation – Confirmation and Eucharist.
4. Adults who are **sponsors** for RCIA participants and their family members.

WHAT HAPPENS AT RCIA? There are 4 major parts of the RCIA Process

1. **The Inquiry** (also called Evangelization or Pre-Catechumen): A time of becoming aware of God’s presence through sharing faith stories and stories from Scripture.
2. **The Catechumenate**: This is a period of teaching core beliefs of the Catholic faith. These beliefs are experienced in various ways: formal instruction, liturgy, service, parish life.
3. **Purity and Enlightenment**: This is a time of deep reflection and discernment; a time when candidates seek purity of intention; it is a time to recognize sinful attachments or attitudes that separate or lessen their relationship with Christ; a time to open themselves to the light of Christ that leads them along the path of holiness.
4. **Mystagogy**: This is a time for the newly baptized and those who have been brought into the fullness of faith to reflect more deeply on the life stories of Christ and the call to follow His ways. It is a time to recall and be thankful for the movement of the Holy Spirit within their lives and a celebration of their new life in the church. It is also a time to begin active participation in the Christian community. The Mystagogy period is likened to the apostles Walk to Emmaus.

HOW LONG DOES RCIA TAKE?

Since RCIA is a “process” and not a program of set classes, there is no set time. Generally speaking, however, we begin in September and continue for several weeks after Easter.

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