



Welcome! Bringing your child to the Church for Baptism and or First Holy Communion is one of the most important and potentially life-changing steps you have ever taken as a parent. We rejoice that you have brought your child to the Church to learn more about God and the Catholic way of life.

We believe this step is just one of the many steps you and your child will take together in your journey of faith. And, we strongly believe that God's Holy Spirit is guiding you throughout this wondrous journey.

Now that you have brought your child, let's talk in more detail about how the Church prepares children to receive Baptism and or First Holy Communion. The Journey the Church's name for this journey that leads to Baptism and Eucharist is RCIA.

RCIA stands for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults adapted for children. The RCIA is the Church's way of preparing your child to receive his or her Sacrament. We call it a journey of faith because it's not just some classes where we teach your child about the Catholic Church. Instead, we walk with you and your child together as you deepen your relationship with God and learn about the Scriptures, traditions, and teachings of the Catholic Church.

Here are a few helpful things to know about this journey of faith that we call RCIA.

1. Parents Accompany the Child

Imagine sending your child on a magnificent journey where she or he learned amazing truths, and grew and developed and changed. You would want to be a part of it, wouldn't you? Well, that's exactly why we ask you to accompany your child on this journey of faith. On this pathway, called RCIA, your child will grow in his or her understanding of God, the Scriptures, and the Church. She or he will develop a deeper relationship with Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit. This spiritual growth and development is a type of "conversion," albeit a conversion that is appropriate for a child. The conversion is to the person of Jesus Christ. And we ask that you, the parent, be a part of that conversion journey. Our hope is that your child will "fall in love with Jesus" and want to become his disciple. We also hope that RCIA will be a positive, faith-enriching experience for you. Becoming a follower of Jesus is a main goal of the RCIA process, and it is important that you accompany your child as he or she learns what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and a member of his Church.

2. It's a Gradual Process

Learning how to be a follower of Jesus takes time. The RCIA is a gradual process that varies according to the needs and religious history of your child. Some children and their families may have a well-developed relationship with God and an in-depth understanding of the Scriptures. Others may need more time to learn the stories of the Bible and the traditions of the Church. Whatever your story, we take time to get to know you and your child.

3. What's the process?

Your child will be enrolled in our **Young Disciples Program** to be with their peers and begin a relationship with them and their teachers. They will meet weekly with that group (please see Young Disciples Calendar). Please **register** for Young Disciples.

Your child will also be enrolled in Our RCIA adapted for children program in which they will meet monthly **accompanied by a parent** to prepare for their Sacraments. Please **register** also for RCIA adapted for children.

Meetings will take place in Imaculatta Hall Room "A" on Sunday mornings at **9:15-10:45**. These meetings are **mandatory** as they prepare your child to receive their Sacraments.

The following are the dates for the meetings:

Sunday September 23 – Welcome and Introduction Where am I going?

Sunday October 21- The Creation Timeline

Sunday November 18- Mass explained

Sunday December 16- Birth of Jesus

Sunday January 20- What is Prayer?

Sunday February 17- How to navigate the Bible

Sunday March 17- Preparing for Sacraments, what I know what I need to know

Sunday April 7- What does it mean to be Catholic...The CREED

Sunday May 5 - How am I doing now?

If you have any concerns or questions please feel free to contact the Family Life Office.

Blessings

Deacon Frank and Kathy DeSanto

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