

Frequently Asked Questions about Becoming Catholic (RCIA)

Q: I don't know if I want to be Catholic, but I have some questions about it. Is RCIA right for me?

Yes! We invite you to join an Inquiry session where you can learn about the Catholic faith and have all your questions answered. During this stage, you will be able to discern whether becoming Catholic is something you are called to do or not. There is no pressure to join and no commitment required at this stage, it is very informal and relaxed.

Q: How do I "Become Catholic"?

A person seeking to become Catholic will go through the RCIA process and receive the Sacraments of Initiation, which for an unbaptized person includes Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion. If the person has already been baptized, he or she will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Communion.

Q: How long does the RCIA process take?

This is difficult to answer because the process is different for everyone. An individual with an extensive Christian background may only need a few months in the process, while someone with no Christian formation may need a couple years. However, on average, it's reasonable to expect to spend about a year in the process.

Q: I have little Christian background or don't know anything about the Catholic Church. Can RCIA help me learn more about Christ and the Church?

Absolutely! Our team is fully trained to teach those with all levels of knowledge and experience. We mentor each participant individually, from those who have an extensive background in other Christian denominations to those who have never heard the name Jesus Christ. All are welcome in RCIA!

Q: I've been practicing another Christian denomination but I'd like to learn more about Catholicism. Is RCIA right for me?

YES, RCIA will be a great resource for you. Many of our team members were baptized in other Christian denominations and became Catholic through RCIA. Our team members and will be able to connect well with you.

Q: I was baptized Catholic but didn't practice it growing up. I now want to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion. Do I need to complete the RCIA process?

The Initiation process is a little different for baptized Catholics, but they do attend sessions with the RCIA group. A baptized Catholic is not required to attend Dismissal however, and usually completes the process a little faster than a non-baptized person or baptized person in a different Christian faith. Also, baptized Catholics receive their Sacraments during Pentecost, rather than the Easter Vigil.

Q: I have already received the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, but I would like to be Confirmed, do I need to complete the RCIA process?

If you were Baptized and received Holy Communion in the Catholic faith, RCIA is not the right process for you. We have a separate Confirmation program that takes place during the 10 weeks before Pentecost. Please contact us regarding this program and we will be glad to help you.

If you were Baptized and received Holy Communion in a different Christian faith, then RCIA is the correct process to become Catholic.

Q: What is a "Sponsor" and what if I don't have one?

A Sponsor is a member of the Church who supports and guides the participant during the RCIA journey. A Sponsor attends RCIA sessions, Rites and activities with the participant and offers his or her own life and practice of the faith as an example of faith, prayer and service within the Catholic Church for the participant to learn from. If you do not have someone in mind to fill this role, the RCIA team assist you.

Q: I don't know anyone from the Church. Can I still join RCIA?

Absolutely! Please come talk to us, we are honored to be the first people you meet at our Parish. We will be glad to introduce you to others who share the same hobbies, interests and passions as you.

Q: I was in RCIA a while ago, but never finished. Do I have to start all over if I come back?

We are so glad to hear you want to come back into RCIA! Each person is different and we mentor each person individually, but depending on how much formation you received in your previous RCIA journey and whether or not you celebrated any RCIA Rites, you most likely will not have to "start over."