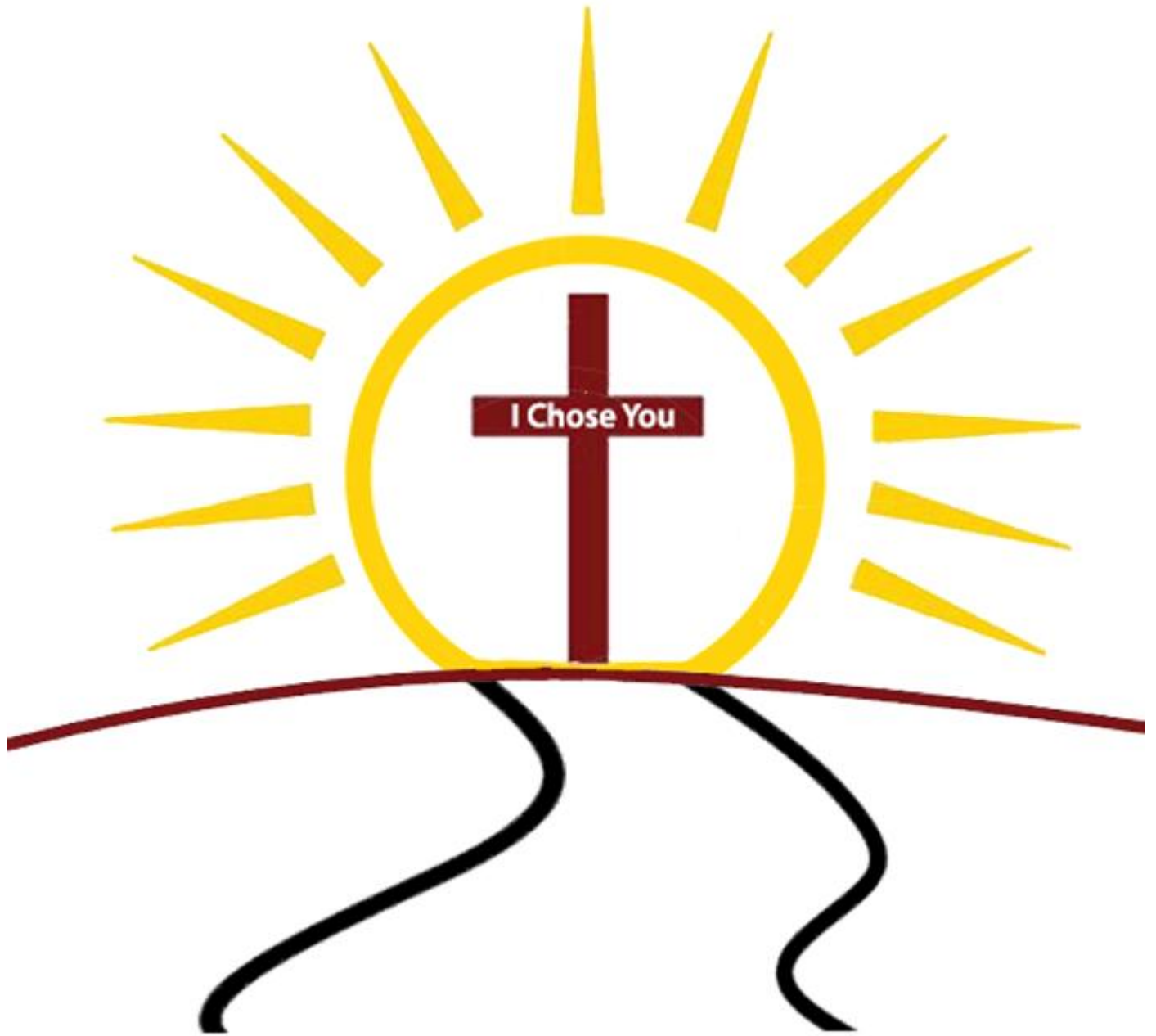


2021 RCIA PROGRAM



Co-Cathedral of St. Thomas More
Tallahassee, FL

Welcome

Welcome to the Co-Cathedral of St. Thomas More's RCIA for 2021-2022. RCIA stands for "Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults" and is the program used at the Co-Cathedral to assist with the preparation of individuals who desire membership in the Catholic Church. We are so glad you have contacted us. Remember that it is God who chose you and led your path to us.

The Catholic Church is the original Christian Church, founded by Jesus, carried forward by the Twelve Apostles, and continuing to the present-day. For that reason, we profess one holy, catholic and apostolic Church. In this program, you will have an opportunity to learn about the Christian Faith, about the Catholic Church and maybe even about yourself. Everyone with questions is welcome. You don't have to plan to become Catholic when you first join us. What you do is yours to decide.

RCIA in Pandemic Times

Please read through these materials as it has important dates, subject matter, and class information. We will follow the course of study set forth below using the St. Augustine Institute's Symbolon series, available through www.formed.org.

Enrolling in Formed

You will need to sign up with formed.org in order to access the videos for makeup purposes. Please go to www.formed.org on the internet and click "sign up." When you come to the first page, you will be given three options. Please select "I belong to a Parish or Organization." You will be asked to find your parish or organization under "Create a New Account." Please type in "Co-Cathedral of St. Thomas More" until the correct parish shows up on the drop down list. Make sure you pick the one in Tallahassee. Select that one and click "next." At this point you can enter your name and email address and proceed to set up your account. Participation is free of charge.

Course Protocol

Each week according to the calendar schedule set forth below, we will meet in the classroom for prayer, scripture reading, a Saint of the Day, and will watch the Symbolon video identified for that week.

After the video, we will breakout into small groups into separate classrooms for a discussion group. The discussion group will be composed of fellow RCIA participants and will be led by group leaders. Participation in the discussion group will give you the opportunity to ask questions and share your thoughts on the video. Depending on the number of members in the program, in order to keep the discussion group small, we may have more than one group. Attendance is taken at the discussion group sessions and you will be expected to participate in those sessions.

COVID/Illness Contingency

If you should be found to be Covid Positive, please email Deacon Andy as soon as possible. In such case, we will notify the class that someone in the group tested positive and we will convene the class virtually instead of meeting in person until the requisite number of days have passed. If you are found to be Covid Positive, please do not return to class until you have a negative test result. If you are sick for any reason, please do not come to class but review the corresponding Symbolon video for the day you were absent. Please also provide us your reflections on what you saw and any questions you may have regarding the presentation. Send your reflections/questions to your small group leader with a copy to Deacon Andy.

Special Note Regarding Dates of Rites/Ceremonies

You will note that this syllabus includes a series of dates for participation in special rites. Please be aware that those dates may need to be adjusted for any of a number of reasons involving unforeseen circumstances. Please do not assume that those dates are final because they may be shifted (except Easter, of course). Therefore, please do not make travel plans or invite guests until you have confirmation that the date is final and will not be changed. Announcements will be made during the course of the year regarding the finality of the dates for planning purposes. We are delighted to have you participate in these rites and invite your special guests to share these events with you and do not want anyone to be disappointed due to changes in scheduling!

Steps on your Journey	For the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)
What are the steps of the RCIA program for an individual who is not baptized?	Prior to beginning the RCIA process, an individual comes to some knowledge of Jesus Christ, considers his or her relationship with Jesus Christ and is usually attracted in some way to the Catholic Church. We call this the Period of Evangelization and Pre-Catechumenate. Often, contact with people of faith and a personal faith experience lead people to inquire about the Catholic Church.
Inquiry	After a conversation with a priest, or RCIA director, the person, known as an "inquirer," may seek acceptance into the Order of Catechumens, through the Rite of Acceptance. During this Rite, the inquirer states that he or she wants to become a baptized member of the Catholic Church. The inquirer is then called a "Catechumen."
Catechumenate	The Period of the Catechumenate is a time when a person is growing in faith, receives answers to the questions encountered along the way, and is learning how God is leading him or her on this journey. During this time, the Catechumens consider what God is saying to them in the Scriptures, what changes in their life they need to make to respond to God's inspiration, and what Baptism in the Catholic Church means.
Rite of Election	On the first Sunday of Lent, the Catechumens publicly express their desire for baptism to the Bishop. Their names are recorded in a book and they are called the Elect.
Purification and Enlightenment	The days of Lent are a time of preparation leading up to the Easter Vigil marked by prayer, study, and spiritual direction. During this period, the parish community is praying for you. The Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation takes place during the Easter Vigil Liturgy on Holy Saturday when the Elect receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist, becoming fully initiated into the Catholic Church.
Mystagogia	The newly initiated Catholics continue their formation and education in the period called Mystagogia. This period continues at least until Pentecost. During this time, the newly baptized members reflect on their experiences at the Easter Vigil and continue to learn more about the Scriptures, the Sacraments, and the teachings of the Catholic Church. In addition, they reflect on how they will serve Christ and help in the Church's mission and outreach activities.
What is meant by coming into full communion with the Church for an individual baptized in another faith community?	Coming into full communion with the Catholic Church describes the process for entrance into the Catholic Church for <i>already-baptized</i> Christians coming from another Christian denomination. In most cases, these individuals, known as Candidates, make a profession of faith but are not baptized again. To prepare for this reception, these individuals participate in the formation program to help them understand and experience the teachings and practices of the Catholic Church. The Candidates will be received into the Catholic Church before the Easter Vigil depending on circumstances and readiness of the Candidate.
What is the role of a sponsor for an adult being baptized?	Prior to the Rite of Election, the Catechumen will choose one sponsor, who will accompany the Catechumen on the day of Election, at the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation, and during the Period of Mystagogia. They are called to show the Catechumens a good example of the Catholic life and guide their progress. If needed, volunteers are available to serve as sponsors.
What is the role of a sponsor for an adult being confirmed?	Prior to the Rite of Election, the Candidate will choose one sponsor, who will accompany the candidate at the Rite of Confirmation and during the Period of Mystagogia. They are called to show the Candidate a good example of the Catholic life and guide their progress in the Christian life.
Time of Discussion Groups	10:10 am to 11:40 am Sundays in Religious Education (RE) Classrooms 1, 2, & 3.
Group Discussion Attendance	Attendance at classes is mandatory but opportunities for makeup classes are available.
Instructors	Deacon Andy Grosmaire Mike & Silvia Alderman Chuck & Candace Bunker Lucinda Coverston & Josh Scriven

Dates	Time	Subject	Digital Teaching Materials	Saint of the Week	Extras
PERIOD OF EVANGELIZATION AND PRE-CATECHUMENATE					
September 12	10:10 AM	The Journey of Faith: Trinity, Faith and The God Who Is Love	Symbolon	Saint Thomas More June 22	
September 19	10:10 AM	Divine Revelation: God Seeking Us and The Compass of Our Lives	Symbolon	The Archangels September 29	
September 26	10:10 AM	The Bible: God's Love Letter to Humanity	Symbolon	Saint Francis of Assisi October 4	
October 3	10:10 AM	The Story of Salvation: Creation, Fall and Redemption	Symbolon	Saint John XXIII October 11	What is Prayer/Litanies by Lucinda Coverston
October 10	10:10 AM	Who is Jesus? Just A Good Man or Lord of Our Lives	Symbolon	Saint Teresa of Avila October 15	
October 17	10:10 AM	The Paschal Mystery: The Mystery of Jesus' Death and Resurrection	Symbolon	Saint John Paul II October 22	
October 24	10:10 AM	The Holy Spirit and The Life of Grace: God's Divine Life Within Us	Symbolon	All Saints November 1	
October 31	10:10 AM	Why Do I Need The Church? The Mystery of The Catholic Church	Symbolon	Saint Martin of Tours November 11	
November 7	10:10 AM	Mary and the Saints: Our Spiritual Mother and The Communion of The Saints	Symbolon	Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini November 13	Liturgical Year by Lucinda Coverston
November 14	10:10 AM	Last Things: What Happens When We Die	Symbolon	Bl. Miguel Agustin Pro November 23	
December 4	5:15 PM	Rite of Acceptance	5:15 PM Mass	Saint Nicholas December 6 Our Lady of Guadalupe December 12	
January 9	10:10 AM	The Sacraments: Baptism & Confirmation	Symbolon	Saint Elizabeth Ann Seaton January 4	The Rosary by Lucinda Coverston
January 16	10:10 AM	The Eucharist: Source & Summit of Christian Life	Symbolon	Saint Anthony, Abbot January 17	
January 23	10:10 AM	Walk Through The Mass: Exploring the Sacred Liturgy	Symbolon	Saint Agnes January 21	
January 30	10:10 AM	Penance and Anointing of the Sick: God's Mercy Revealed	Symbolon	Saint John Bosco January 31	
February 6	10:10 AM	Matrimony and Holy Orders: The Sacraments of Service & Communion	Symbolon	Saint Paul Miki and companions February 6	Stations of the Cross by Lucinda Coverston
February 13	10:10 AM	A Catholic Moral Vision: Virtue, Grace and The Path to Happiness	Symbolon	Saint Valentine February 14	

February 20	10:10 AM	A Love that Lasts: Discovering Authentic Love God's Plan for Sexuality (2 videos)	Symbolon	Saint Peter Damian February 21	
February 27	10:10 AM	Catholic Social Teaching: Building a Civilization of Love Protecting the Dignity of The Human Person (2 videos)	Symbolon	Saint Katharine Drexel March 3	
March 6	10:10 AM	Prayer Process	Dynamic Catholic	Saint Faustina October 5	Novenas/Divine Mercy Chaplet by Lucinda Coverston
March 6	3:00 PM	Rite of Election	Meet in the Church		
March 13		Spring Break No Class			
March 20	8:00 AM	First Scrutiny (Mass)	Meet in the Church	Saints Perpetua and Felicity March 7	
March 26	11:00 AM	Rite of Confirmation for Baptized Catholics	Meet in Church Rehearsal TBD		
March 27	12:00 PM	Second Scrutiny (Mass)	Meet in the Church	Saint Patrick	
April 2	5:15 PM	Profession of Faith/Confirmation for Baptized Christians	Meet in the Church for rehearsal at 4 :00 pm		
April 3	10:00 AM	Third Scrutiny (10 AM Mass)	Meet in the Church	Saint Cyril of Jerusalem	First Friday & First Saturday Devotions by Lucinda Coverston
April 10	10:10 AM	Holy Week Liturgies	Palm Sunday	Saint Turibius of Mogrovejo	
April 16	TBD Sunset	Holy Saturday Retreat Easter Vigil	Catechumens Rehearsal TBD		
April 24	10:10 AM	Holy Week Reflections Where do we go from here?	The New Catholics	Saint Martin I	

IMPORTANT DATES IN THE CATHOLIC YEAR

Date	Event	Description
November 1	All Saints Day	All Saints Day is a special feast day on which Catholics celebrate all the saints, known and unknown. While most saints have a particular feast day on the Catholic calendar (usually, though not always, the date of their death), not all those feast days are observed.
November 21	Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe	The Feast of Christ the King is the last day of the liturgical year and beckons us to ask, "Is Christ more king of my life now than a year ago?"
November 28	First Sunday of Advent	Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas. Traditionally, it has been celebrated with prayer and fasting, which is why it is known as the "little Lent." Advent is also the start of the liturgical year in the Roman Catholic Church.
December 4	Rite of Acceptance	Rite of Acceptance - Required attendance for the unbaptized (Catechumens) and baptized (Candidates). "This is the liturgical rite...marking the beginning of the catechumenate proper, as the candidates express, and the Church accepts their intention to respond to God's call to follow the way of Christ."
December 8	Immaculate Conception	The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is the subject of a lot of misconceptions. Perhaps the most common one is that it celebrates the conception of Christ in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Immaculate Conception Celebrates God's Preservation of the Blessed Virgin Mary From Original Sin. We celebrate another feast—the Annunciation of the Lord—on March 25, exactly nine months before Christmas. It was at the Annunciation, when the Blessed Virgin Mary humbly accepted the honor bestowed on her by God and announced by the angel Gabriel, that the conception of Christ took place.
December 25	Christmas	Christmas: The Celebration of the Birth of Jesus Christ. The word Christmas derives from the combination of Christ and Mass; it is the feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
January 1	Mary, Mother of God	The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. During the Twelve Days of Christmas, the Catholic Church celebrates many important feasts, including the feasts of Saint Stephen, the first martyr (December 26); Saint John the Apostle (December 27), who wrote the Gospel of John and the Book of Revelation, as well as three epistles; the Holy Innocents (December 29), the children who were slaughtered at the order of King Herod, when he was trying to kill the Christ Child; and the Holy Family (normally celebrated on the Sunday after Christmas, and on December 30, when Christmas falls on a Sunday). None, however, is as important as the feast celebrated on the octave (eighth day) of Christmas, January 1: the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God.
March 2	Ash Wednesday	Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, the season of preparation for the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us. As the ashes are applied to a person's forehead, the words spoken are: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" or "Repent and believe in the Gospel."
March 6	Rite of Election	Required attendance for the unbaptized (Catechumens) and baptized (Candidates). On the first Sunday of Lent, the Catechumens, their sponsors and families gather at the Co-Cathedral. The Catechumens publicly express their desire for baptism to the Bishop. Their names are recorded in a book and they are called the Elect.
March 20, 27 & April 3	First, Second, and Third Scrutiny	Required attendance for the unbaptized (Catechumens). <i>"143. In order to inspire in the elect a desire for purification and redemption by Christ, three scrutinies are celebrated. By this means, first of all, the elect are instructed gradually about the mystery of sin, from which the whole world and every person longs to be delivered and thus saved from its present and future consequences. Second, their spirit is filled with Christ the Redeemer, who is the living water (gospel of the Samaritan woman in the first scrutiny), the light of the world (gospel of the man born blind in the second scrutiny), the resurrection and the life (gospel of Lazarus in the third scrutiny). From the first to the final scrutiny the elect should progress in their perception of sin and their desire for salvation."</i>
April 10	Palm Sunday	Palm Sunday commemorates the triumphal entrance of Christ into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-9), when palm branches were placed in His path, before His arrest on Holy Thursday and His Crucifixion on Good Friday. It thus marks the beginning of

		Holy Week, the final week of Lent, and the week in which Christians celebrate the mystery of their salvation through Christ's Death and His Resurrection on Easter Sunday.
April 14	Holy Thursday	Holy Thursday is the day on which Jesus Christ celebrated the Last Supper with His disciples, four days after His triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Only hours after the Last Supper, Judas would betray Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane, setting the stage for Christ's Crucifixion on Good Friday.
April 15	Good Friday	Good Friday is observed on the Friday before Easter Sunday. On this day Christians commemorate the passion, or suffering, and death on the cross of Jesus Christ. Many Christians spend Good Friday in fasting, prayer, repentance, and meditation on the agony and suffering of Christ.
April 16	Holy Saturday	Holy Saturday is the final day of the Easter Triduum, the three days (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday) immediately preceding Easter, during which Christians commemorate the Passion and Death of Jesus Christ and prepare for His Resurrection.
April 17	Easter Sunday	Easter is the greatest feast in the Christian calendar. On Easter Sunday, Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. For Catholics, The Easter Triduum comes at the end of 40 days of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving known as Lent. Through spiritual struggle and self-denial, we have prepared ourselves to die spiritually with Christ on Good Friday, the day of His Crucifixion, so that we can rise again with Him in new life on Easter.
April 24	Divine Mercy Sunday	Divine Mercy Sunday is a relatively new addition to the Roman Catholic liturgical calendar. Divine Mercy Sunday is celebrated on the Octave of Easter (the eighth day of Easter; that is, the Sunday after Easter Sunday). Celebrating the Divine Mercy of Jesus Christ, as revealed by Christ Himself to St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, this feast was extended to the entire Catholic Church by Pope John Paul II on April 30, 2000, the day that he canonized Saint Faustina. Christ's Divine Mercy is the love that He has for mankind, despite our sins that separate us from Him.
May 26	Ascension	The Ascension of Our Lord, which occurred 40 days after Jesus Christ rose from the dead on Easter, is the final act of our redemption that Christ began on Good Friday. On this day, the risen Christ, in the sight of His apostles, ascended bodily into Heaven.
June 5	Pentecost Sunday	Pentecost Sunday is one of the most ancient feasts of the Church, celebrated early enough to be mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles (20:16) and Saint Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians (16:8). Pentecost is celebrated on the 50th day after Easter (if we count both Easter Sunday and Pentecost Sunday), and it supplants the Jewish feast of Pentecost, which took place 50 days after the Passover and celebrated the sealing of the Old Covenant on Mount Sinai. Pentecost is often called "the birthday of the Church." On Pentecost Sunday, with the descent of the Holy Spirit, Christ's mission is completed, and the New Covenant is inaugurated.
June 12	Trinity Sunday	Trinity Sunday is a moveable feast celebrated a week after Pentecost Sunday. Also known as Holy Trinity Sunday, Trinity Sunday honors the most fundamental of Christian beliefs—belief in the Holy Trinity. The human mind can never fully understand the mystery of the Trinity, but we can sum it up in the following formula: God is three Persons in one Nature. There is only one God, and the three Persons of God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—are all equally God, and They cannot be divided.
June 16	Corpus Christi	The Feast of Corpus Christi, or the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ (as it is often called today), goes back to the 13th century, but it celebrates something far older: the institution of the Sacrament of Holy Communion at the Last Supper. While Holy Thursday is also a celebration of this mystery, the solemn nature of Holy Week, and the focus on Christ's Passion on Good Friday, overshadows that aspect of Holy Thursday.
June 24	Sacred Heart of Jesus	Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus goes back at least to the 11th century, but through the 16th century, it remained a private devotion, often tied to devotion to the Five Wounds of Christ.
August 15	Assumption of Mary	Celebrated every year on August 15, the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary commemorates the death of Mary and her bodily assumption into Heaven, before her body could begin to decay—a foretaste of our own bodily resurrection at the end of time. Because it signifies the Blessed Virgin's passing into eternal life, it is the most important of all Marian feasts as well as being a Holy Day of Obligation (but not this year because it falls on a Saturday.)

THE FACES BEHIND THE RCIA PROGRAM

St. Thomas More



Father John B. Cayer Email: frjohn@cocathedral.com

Rector

Fr. John came to St. Thomas More in July 2013. He was the associate pastor at STM over 7 years ago in 2006-07. He's been ordained over 20 years and serves as rector of our parish. He grew up in Ft. Walton Beach, FL. Fr. John has been involved with the RCIA process for over 20 years in the five parishes that he has served.



Father Tim Holeda Email: frtim@cocathedral.com

Parochial Vicar

Fr. Tim came to St. Thomas More in 2016. Previously, he was the associate pastor at Blessed Sacrament. He serves as the Director of Vocations and Seminarians for the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee. He entered the Catholic Faith through the RCIA program at St. Thomas More.



Deacon Andy Grosmaire Email: deaconandy@cocathedral.com

Director of RCIA Program

Deacon Andy became a Catholic at the Easter Vigil in April 2002 at Good Shepherd Catholic Church. In June 2013, he was ordained a Catholic deacon by Bishop Parkes. He was assigned to the Co-Cathedral of St. Thomas More in December 2013 to serve as a deacon.



Mike & Silvia Alderman Email: silvia.alderman@gmail.com

RCIA Team Members

Mike and Silvia Alderman have attended St. Thomas More since the 1970s and they have worked with the RCIA program over 20 years. They also serve the church as sacristans and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion.



Chuck & Candace Bunker Email: ingoditrust@comcast.net

RCIA Team Members

Chuck and Candace Bunker share their passion for their faith by serving together on the RCIA team. In addition, Candace has served as President of the Pastoral Council and Past President of the Tallahassee Board of Catholic Charities of Northwest Florida. Both Chuck and Candace entered the church thru the RCIA program in 2003 and 2007 respectively.



Lucinda Coverston Email: beads2rosaries@gmail.com

RCIA Team Member

Lucinda joined the church at the Co-Cathedral of St Thomas More in April 1995. She enjoys working with and learning from those interested in joining the church. This enthusiasm has led to participation in RCIA programs over the past 26 years as a speaker, group facilitator, sponsor and administrator. She has also served as a lector.



Josh Scriven Email: joshuascriven@aol.com

RCIA Team Member

Joshua entered the Church in 2016 at the Co-Cathedral of St Thomas More. He enjoys bringing others to a fuller understanding of the Catholic faith and has worked as a Catechist with our 2nd grade religious education program for a few years. He has chosen to work with the RCIA team this year and looks forward to sharing his spiritual and philosophical journey with other converts.

**CO-CATHEDRAL OF ST. THOMAS MORE – RCIA AND CONFIRMATION 2021-2022
REGISTRATION FORM**

LAST NAME: _____

FIRST NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

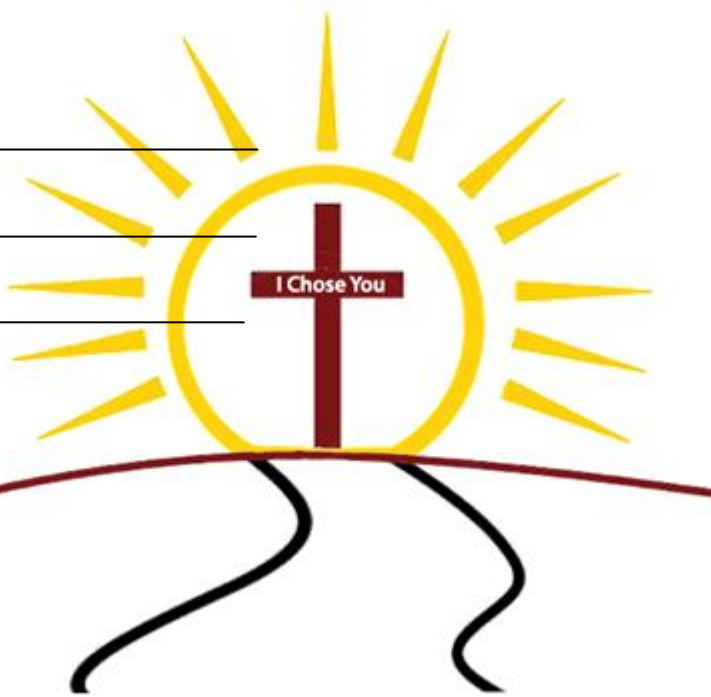
APT. #: _____

STATE: _____

ZIP CODE: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____



HAVE YOU BEEN BAPTIZED IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

YES

NO

I AM A BAPTIZED CATHOLIC SEEKING:

COMMUNION

CONFIRMATION

HAVE YOU BEEN BAPTIZED IN ANOTHER CHRISTIAN DENOMINATION?

YES

NO

IF YES WHICH DENOMINATION? _____

MARITAL STATUS? SINGLE: _____ MARRIED: _____ DIVORCED: _____