

R.C.I.A.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Are you, a family member or a friend considering becoming a Catholic?

At St. James, we have been preparing adults to be welcomed into the Roman Catholic Church through the formation process known as R.C.I.A. since 1988! After attending classes together, participants will receive the sacraments of initiation – Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist – at our Holy Saturday Vigil Mass.

PERIOD OF INQUIRY

The first step in the R.C.I.A. process is called Period of Inquiry and begins in September. We will be meeting on Sundays from 11:15 to 12:30 in the Parish Center. Discussion is on our personal faith journeys and the teachings, prayers and practices of the Catholic Faith.

PERIOD OF THE CATECHUMENATE

In January, participants will celebrate the Rite of Acceptance and will continue on to a deeper study of their faith. They will participate in the Liturgy of the Word and will be dismissed after the homily in order to reflect on the proclaimed Scriptures.

PERIOD OF PURIFICATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT

This step takes place during the liturgical season of Lent. The Rite of Sending Forth is celebrated on the first Sunday of Lent “sending” participants to our Bishop who will then officially call them to the sacraments at the Rite of Election (for the “catechumens” or unbaptized) and the Rite of Continuing Conversion (for the “candidates” or the baptized).

MYSTAGOGY

This period is called “mystagogy” which means deepening of the faith. After receiving the sacraments of initiation, the new members of our Community of Faith – “neophytes” – are asked to reflect on the new life they have received and how they will go forth to minister to others in the communities in which they live, work, play and pray! This period lasts a lifetime for all Catholics as we recognize our call to continual conversion.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Catholic Church, please call the St. James Parish Center at 203-375-5887 or email

bredgate.stjamesparish@gmail.com

First Gathering- Sunday, September 11, 2016- 11:15-12:30