

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)



What is the RCIA?

- RCIA stands for the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**.
- It is the process that people participate in to become Catholic.
- It is also for people who are thinking about becoming Catholic, or aren't sure about becoming Catholic but want to learn more about it.

Who would be in these classes?

- People who have never been baptized.
- People who have been baptized in another Christian Faith.
- People who were baptized Catholic but did not complete their Sacraments of Initiation (Confirmation, Eucharist).
- And...sometimes for people who have been inactive in their Catholic faith for a long period of time and want to get reconnected. (These folks are welcomed as visitors—like 'auditing' a class!)
- Other folks involved are...
 - Team members who teach about the faith and provide hospitality (there are always good snacks available).
 - Godparents & sponsors (which are Catholics who act as mentors to you along the way).
- The whole Catholic Community is also 'present' (offer prayers and try to be good examples to support you on your journey).

What is the time commitment?

- Sunday mornings at 9am from mid-September until Pentecost (50 days after Easter), with the exception of holiday weekends. You will be provided with a full schedule on the first day of class. Note that this is the typical calendar schedule, but because this is *your* journey, and everyone's situations are different, if it takes longer than the calendar says, that's ok! We don't want people to feel pressured to join the church if they are not ready. Though the Easter Vigil is the typical Mass we receive people into the church, we can accept people into the Catholic Church anytime throughout the year, whenever you are ready. Focus on the *journey* more than on the calendar!
- Classes run from 9am until about 10:45am initially, then increase in length as it gets closer to Easter (the longest classes run from 9am – 12pm).

Why in the world does it take 8/+ months!?!?!?

- This is a journey of faith that not only involves learning material in your head, but most importantly absorbing it into your whole self (head and heart). It takes time to develop and grow on this journey. Deciding to become Catholic is a major life choice and not something to be rushed.
- There are several steps along the way... (see "RCIA: Typical Steps")

What else?

- There is no cost to take this class. Just committing the time is 'cost' enough! ☺
- Childcare is provided during our Sunday class-time for children 18 months of age and up. It is located in the nursery just down the hall.
- Along the way, you will be asked to find a sponsor (or godparent in the case of those preparing for baptism). This would be an actively practicing Catholic over the age of 18 who has received his/her confirmation in the Catholic Church. If you cannot find one, we can provide one for you.
- Note: signing up to start RCIA classes does NOT mean you *have* to become Catholic! This is your journey and your decision—we're just here to help. ☺