



RCIA & Adult Faith Formation 2014- 2015

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Office of Adult Formation/RCIA
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Becoming a Catholic Christian

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process by which people become members of the Roman Catholic Church. Also known as the Catechumenate, it is a Journey of Faith, a process of growth and conversion that takes place through the proclamation of the gospel, teaching of Catholic doctrine and a gradual introduction to the customs and practices of Catholic life.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults consists of four distinct stages:

Period of Evangelization and Pre-Catechumenate (Inquiry Stage)

This is a time for inquiry and introduction to the Gospel. This is the opportunity to ask questions about the faith, what Catholics believe about Jesus, salvation, and the Church which gradually leads to deepen their spiritual search and experience initial conversion.

The Catechumenate

During this stage, the catechumens (unbaptized) and candidates grow in faith and prayer as they attend formal sessions on Catholic teachings and practice, participate in the Liturgy of the Word each Sunday and reflect on the Sunday readings.

Purification and Enlightenment

Beginning with the First Sunday of Lent, this is the period of intense spiritual preparation to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.

Mystagogy

The final phase of the RCIA in which the Neophytes (those who have just shared in the sacraments of initiation) reflect on their experience. They take time to discover their gifts and talents and continue to listen to God's call to serve the community.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- ◆ Those seeking Baptism, that is, those not baptized previously in another Christian denomination, and now wish to learn more about the Catholic faith with the possibility of becoming Catholic.
- ◆ Any non-Catholic baptized in a Christian denomination and would like to learn more about the Roman Catholic faith.
- ◆ Any baptized Catholic, not raised in the faith, who has not received the Sacraments of the Holy Eucharist or Confirmation, but now seeks to become a practicing Catholic.
- ◆ Sponsors for the catechumens (unbaptized) and the candidates.
- ◆ Any baptized, practicing Catholic (attends Mass and receives the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist (regularly) but has not received the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- ◆ Anyone who seeks a deeper understanding of the Catholic faith.

See the reverse side for the 2014 - 2015 RCIA - Adult Faith Formation Schedule

2014 - 2015 Session Dates and Topics

All sessions held on Sundays 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
in Room B of the Parish Center

PRE-CATECHUMENATE *Inquiry and Discernment*

- 9/21 Introduction to the Rite of Christian Initiation
- 9/28 Human Capacity to Know God
- 10/5 Who is Jesus?
- 10/12 The Message of Jesus
- 10/19 Christian Prayer/The Our Father
- 10/26 Stages of Revelation/Salvation History
- 11/2 Introduction to Sacred Scripture
- 11/9 The Roman Catholic Church
- 11/16 Preparation for the Rite of Acceptance into Catechumenate
- 11/23 RITE OF ACCEPTANCE INTO THE ORDER OF CATECHUMENS

CATECHUMENATE

- 11/30 **No session - Thanksgiving break**
- 12/7 Advent - The Liturgical Year/Mary and the Saints
- 12/14 The Mass: A Meal and A Sacrifice/Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist
- 12/21 Christmas Reflection: The Incarnation of Jesus
- 12/28 **No session - Christmas break**

- 1/4 Moral Conscience and the Virtues
- 1/11 A Walk through the Mass
- 1/18 The Creed/The Trinity
- 1/25 The Last Things: Death, Judgment, Heaven, Hell, Purgatory
- 2/1 Introduction to the Sacraments/Sacrament of Baptism
- 2/8 Sacrament of Confirmation
- 2/15 LENT: A Journey into the Inner Self/Preparation for the Rite of Election and Rite of Recognition
- 2/18 Ash Wednesday

Period of Purification and Enlightenment

- 2/22 Rite of Election at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral
- 3/1 Sin and Conversion - A Change of Heart
- 3/8 Third Sunday of Lent: First Scrutiny/Sacrament of Reconciliation
- 3/15 Fourth Sunday of Lent: Second Scrutiny/How to Go to Confession
- 3/22 Fifth Sunday of Lent: Third Scrutiny/Preparation for Easter Vigil
- 3/29 Palm Sunday: Beginning of Holy Week NO DISMISSAL
- 4/2 Holy Thursday: Evening Liturgy
- 4/3 Good Friday: 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Tre Ore Services
- 4/4 Easter Vigil (Saturday)
- 4/5 Easter Sunday (Holiday Break)

MYSTAGOGY

- 4/12 Reflection on the Rites Celebrated at Easter
- 4/19 Sacrament of Holy Orders, Sacrament of Matrimony, Sacrament of the Sick
- 4/26 Introduction to the Parish Council and Various Ministries
- 5/3 Conversion: The Power of Grace and the Call of Discipleship

Welcoming into the Catholic Church and the
Sacred Heart Community