

The benefits of the RCIA are special and lifelong.

The RCIA can help to:

† **Build Community** by establishing a bond between newcomers and the faith community.

† **Increase Understanding** of the teachings of the Gospel and the Church.

† **Deepen Responsibility** of church members to spread their faith as Jesus commanded.

† **Renew the Commitment** of church members to live out their baptismal mission.

† **Inspire Reflection** on the mystery of Christ's sacrifice for the salvation of the faithful.



Do you have questions about the Catholic faith?

Have you been away from the church and now are wondering if you will ever be welcome to come back again?

Are you part of an interfaith marriage and feel a sense of emptiness and separation when you watch your spouse/ children receive and participate in the beautiful sacraments of the Catholic tradition?

If so...please let us know.

St. John's parish is a welcoming community, *alive in Jesus Christ*, and we want to share that life with you!

For further information and a calendar of events please contact::

Jaci Kastner

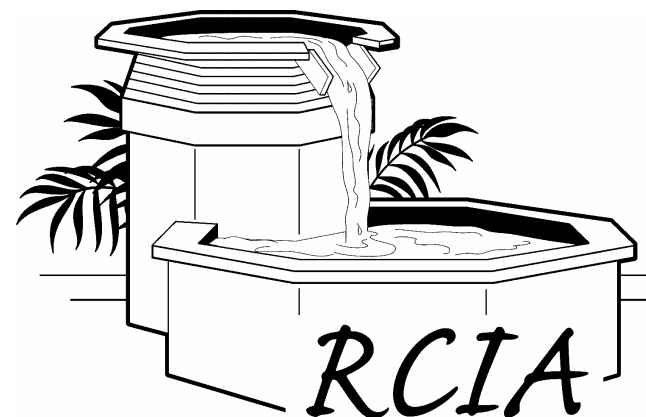
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Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults



THE RCIA REACHES

***EVERYONE, giving birth
or rebirth to faith.***

WHAT is RCIA . . .

It's the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** — a process for *welcoming* adult newcomers (inquirers) into the Roman Catholic Church. Guided by the Gospel and by the examples set by church members, newcomers can find their place in the *community* of believers. Through *shared experiences* we will:

- *Learn about the Catholic tradition*
- *Attend Mass and practice Catholic habits*
- *Examine and deepen faith life*



WHO is RCIA for . . .

It's for inquirers. **INQUIRERS** come from a **variety of backgrounds**. The process of full initiation is adapted to meet the needs of men and women who are:

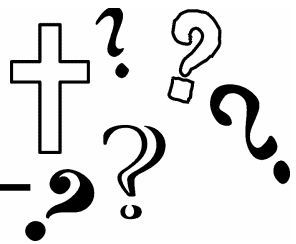
- not baptized
- baptized in the Roman Catholic church but not evangelized or completely initiated
- baptized in another Christian church, but in need of further instruction and initiation.

It's for the **COMMUNITY of believers**. It provides opportunity for church members to reexamine their own relationship with God. The enthusiastic and joyous response of newcomers to the discovery of Christ in their lives can spark renewed faith in the lives of other church members.

WHAT will my journey be . . .

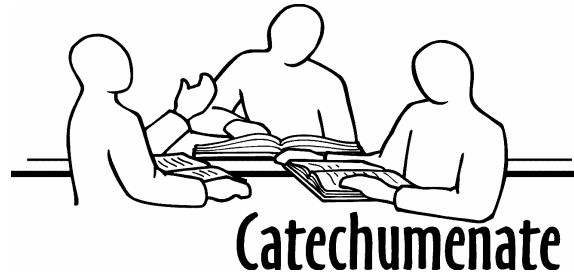
1 - Period of Inquiry:

- A time to share stories of our lives
- To hear the stories of Scripture
- To ask questions

Inquiry 

Rite of Acceptance:

- Inquirers ask to become members of church
- The Community pledges their support



2 - Period of the Catechumenate

- A time of formal preparation
- Understand church teaching
- Learn the ways Catholics worship and pray
- Reflect on the Sunday readings

Rite of Election

- The unbaptized are called to receive Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist

OR

Call to Continuing Conversion

- The Baptized candidates are called to receive the fullness of initiation

3 - Period of Purification & Enlightenment

- The time of Lent when all the church prepared for the life of the Easter sacraments
- Deepening of spiritual life
- Conversion



Rite of Initiation

- The unbaptized receive all three Sacraments
- The baptized receive Confirmation and Eucharist
- All make a profession of Faith



4 - Period of Mystagogy

- Share in the Eucharist each week
- Perform acts of Service
- Live out the Gospel in daily life.