

What should I know about RCIA



How do I become Catholic?

RCIA is the process for initiating people into the Catholic Church. The RCIA process prepares you to receive the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and 1st Eucharist. After receiving all three of these sacraments you are fully initiated into the Catholic Faith.

How long does it take?

You can join at any time. For most people the process takes about a year. The formal part of the process starts during the late summer. Some people start as late as the fall (depending on circumstances). Generally, you receive the Sacraments of Initiation the following Easter, at the Easter Vigil Mass (night before Easter Sunday).

Who is RCIA for?

RCIA is for:

- Adults who are unbaptized, or who have been baptized into other Christian traditions such as Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist, etc...
- Adults who were baptized into the Catholic Faith as infants, but who did not receive either the sacraments of 1st Eucharist and/or Confirmation.
- Children 7 years and older who are unbaptized or who have been baptized into another Christian tradition.
- The RCIA process is also for children who were baptized Catholic as infants, but did not receive the Sacrament of 1st Eucharist at age 7 through the parish preparation process.
- Catholics who would like to brush up on their faith in a small community of friends.

How do I get started?

Please call Brad Poche at 985.969.1475. They can help you get started, or join us at the St Benedict Room in the church. We meet almost every Sunday from 9:00 to 10:30 am (see schedule on reverse side).

How much does RCIA cost?

There is no charge or fee for the RCIA process.

How much of a time commitment is RCIA?

Once you enter the formal RCIA Formation process which usually starts in August, the RCIA community will meet almost every Sunday morning, attending the 8am Mass (worship service) together and meeting afterwards from 9:00 to 10:30. The community will meet each Sunday until Pentecost of the following year. We have a few other retreats and events outside of Sunday mornings (see schedule on reverse side). We

understand that many people's work and family responsibilities prevent them from meeting every Sunday morning or that conflict with other scheduled events. We work with people on a case by case basis to accommodate schedule conflicts. RCIA is a commitment, and so we expect you to participate in 75% or more of the scheduled events.

If I have been married more than once, can I enter the RCIA process?

Yes! You can join the RCIA community. If you or your spouse have been previously married, we will help you contact a priest or deacon who can review your marriage history and determine if you need to enter the annulment and convalidation process. Please share this with us early so that we can help you get started in the process. For more information go to:

www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/marriage/annulment

What if my spouse or I were baptized Catholic, but we were not married by a Catholic priest or deacon?

If this is the case, you may need to have your marriage convalidated. We will help you contact a priest or deacon who can help you with the convalidation process. For more information go to:

www.foryourmarriage.org/convalidation-bringing-your-marriage-into-the-church

How do I participate in RCIA if I am the parent or guardian of a child in RCIA?

The Church teaches that parents are the primary religious educators of their children. With that in mind, we want to help you to be able to teach the Catholic Faith to your children. Therefore, if you have a child in the RCIA process, we expect you to attend the adult RCIA classes and events holding to 75% expected participation.

What information do I need to provide?

The following information is needed:

- If not registered in the parish, please go to the parish website and register.
- Come to an RCIA gathering and we will give you a registration form and help you to fill it out. (available at the meetings).
- If baptized, a Baptismal Certificate from the church where you were baptized. In some cases, a certificate may not be available. If so, we can discuss.

For more RCIA info go to:

www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/who-we-teach/rite-of-christian-initiation-of-adults

Contact Brad Poche: 985.969.1475

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