

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

According to St. Justin Martyr (a second century saint in the Catholic Church), each object of creation is imbedded with a “seed” of Christ that connects that object to God’s presence. Those who consciously seek Christ allow that seed to grow through a personal encounter with Christ, both in their prayer life and their faith life as well.

The purpose of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adult Process (or RCIA) is to allow an adult to understand this gift of Christ, both within themselves and through the life of the Church. During a six month period of study and reflection, each adult who participates will be “strengthened spiritually” in the teachings of the Catholic Faith. At the conclusion of this instruction, the adult is ready to join the Church through the reception of the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist (which takes place at the Easter Vigil service during the spring of the following year).

Generally speaking, someone who joins the RCIA Process falls into one of four categories:

Catechumens.

These people are affiliated with a different faith tradition (or no faith tradition at all) and have not received the sacrament of Baptism.

Non-Catholic Candidates.

These non-Catholics have been baptized but have not taken a profession of faith in the Roman Catholic Tradition, nor have they received Eucharist or Confirmation in the Roman Catholic Tradition.

Non-catechized Catholics.

These people have been baptized in the Catholic faith but have not received any training for First Communion or Confirmation.

Catechized Catholics.

These people have received the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist in the Catholic Church but wish to be confirmed in order to complete the initiation process.

The RCIA Process at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church covers the basic teachings of the Catholic faith, and is geared both towards those who have little or no background and those who have studied the faith in more depth. The process usually begins in the last week of September and meets every Tuesday in the parish center, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Among the areas covered in the sessions are:

- The History of the Church
- The Structure of the Church
- The Trinity
- The Old Testament
- The New Testament
- Prayer Styles
- The Saints and Mary
- The Seven Sacraments
- The Structure of the Mass
- Christian Moral Living

Each participant is encouraged to bring a “sponsor” with them to the sessions. The sponsor can be a spouse or a friend who has received the sacrament of Confirmation. This person is invited to join the participant on the journey of faith and will serve as the participant’s witness at the Easter Vigil.

For More Information about the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) at St. Patrick's...

Please contact us at (815) 727-4746, ext. 3, or mail this form to our parish office. We will be happy to answer your questions and notify you about upcoming events in the RCIA Process.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Have You Been Baptized? If so, in what faith tradition were you baptized?

Are you a registered member of the parish? If not, would you like to receive a registration form?

FAQ Concerning the RCIA Process at St. Patrick's Catholic Church

Can anyone join the RCIA Process? Absolutely! If you are interested in joining, please feel free to call us and we will send you more information.

What is the cost for RCIA? At St. Patrick's Catholic Church, all we ask is a *suggested* fee of \$50 to cover the cost of materials.

When do the sessions meet? How long do the sessions run? Currently, we meet on Tuesday nights, beginning at from 6:30 p.m. in the Church building. The sessions begin the last week of September and run through Pentecost of the following spring.

I have no background in the Catholic Faith. Will the sessions be difficult for me to follow? Absolutely not! Each week, we will hand out materials that will be easy to follow, and more in-depth materials for those who wish to pursue the topics in greater detail.

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*Baptism
Confirmation
Eucharist*



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