

GENERAL INFORMATION



The three symbols of baptism & confirmation - the water of baptism, the oil of confirmation and the Easter candle.

A 1966 decree from the Second Vatican Council called for the adult rites of initiation – baptism, confirmation and Eucharist, – to be revised and restored to the catechumenate. It wasn't until 1972 that the church issued the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). The RCIA stresses the connection between each of the three sacraments of Christian initiation. In 1988 the American bishops mandated the implementation of the RCIA in all parishes in the United States.

During the Easter Vigil, the elect are welcomed into the Church and receive the sacraments of initiation.

- In baptism, a person becomes a Christian and receives grace and life from the Holy Spirit. Through the water of baptism, candidates share in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- In the sacrament of confirmation, the newly baptized (or neophytes) are anointed by the celebrant with the holy oil (chrism). Confirmation is a sacrament that celebrates God's special gifts and strengths in those who have been baptized. The fullness of the Holy Spirit is received.
- During the liturgy of the Eucharist, the neophyte receives the Body and Blood of Christ. They share the gift of the Bread of Life and Cup of Salvation, which will deepen their initiation throughout their lives.

If you are interested in learning more about the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, please contact:

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ST. LAWRENCE
CATHOLIC
CHURCH

THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS



“GO, THEREFORE, AND
MAKE DISCIPLES...”

MATTHEW 28:19

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What is the RCIA?

The Catholic Church always welcomes new members into its community. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the present-day process by which people enter into the Catholic faith. The RCIA is a process in which interested men and women can explore Catholicism, and make a decision to become a Catholic over a period of time.

Who can be involved?

Any adult, 18 years and older, who is unbaptized or a baptized Christian of another faith, may participate in the RCIA.

What is the actual process?

The process begins with several months of inquiry, during which interested individuals can learn, in general, about the core beliefs of the Catholic church. More importantly, this is a time when inquirers can ask a lot of questions of the RCIA team members and the team can assist the inquirer with understanding more about the spiritual journey being contemplated. After this initial period of inquiry, participants are asked to affirm their decision to continue the conversion process.

Next is an extended period of weekly sessions and other activities designed to involve participants in the church community. This period allows participants the opportunity to examine their commitment to the process through regular attendance, participation in community service events and involvement in other parish activities. For those committed, the next step is an intense period of prayer

and reflection (normally during Lent), leading to the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist (for some at the Easter vigil celebration, for others when the participant, sponsor and RCIA team agree that the participant is ready to proceed with the sacraments).

The RCIA process concludes with a period of reflection and prayer during which the newly baptized and/or confirmed Catholics can further their faith formation. The weekly process normally ends at Pentecost, seven weeks following Easter.

What documents are required for becoming Catholic?

Baptized Christians of another faith will need a copy of their baptismal record. Copies of marriage certificates and decrees of annulment in the Church may be required if appropriate.

Does anyone help me?

You will be paired with a sponsor to help you throughout the initiation process. Sponsors are chosen from the St. Lawrence community. Spouses or fiancées may assist the participant, but are not encouraged to act as their sponsors. Also, the RCIA team, headed by the Pastor, is always available to help. Those who seek the sacrament of Baptism may choose a godparent in addition to their sponsor. Details will be explained during the weekly sessions.

When does the next RCIA start?

Inquiry sessions for the RCIA are held year-round on the second and fourth Thursday of every month. As these sessions are more informational rather than instructional, one is never "behind" when they join an Inquiry session. Please utilize the contact information in this brochure if you have any questions about the RCIA process or would like to join us for our Inquiry sessions.

YES! I WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH. SEE MY SPECIFIC INTERESTS BELOW:

- I WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A PARTICIPANT IN THE RCIA.
- I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE MORE INFORMATION. PLEASE HAVE SOMEONE CONTACT ME USING THE INFORMATION BELOW.

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone

Email

Please mail or fax to:

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