



RCIA Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS RCIA?

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process for becoming Catholic. RCIA will allow you the opportunity to ask questions and focus on your personal relationship with God. It is a faith journey that includes prayer, scripture, community, and the teachings of the Catholic Church. Ultimately, this faith journey will prepare you to be fully initiated into the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and First Communion).

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO BE FULLY INITIATED?

It depends on each individual. If you have been baptized and have been practicing your faith, it may only take a few months. However, if you are not baptized or are baptized but not practicing your faith, it will take about a year of preparation before being fully initiated into the Catholic Church.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS OF RCIA?

RCIA consists of four periods:

1. Inquiry: this is the initial period of your faith journey. There is no commitment to the process at this point. You will be introduced to Jesus' story and you will have the chance to ask your initial questions.
2. Catechumenate: this is a period of learning more about Catholicism.
3. Purification and Enlightenment: this is a period of prayer and reflection. If you've made it to this point, it typically means that you've made the decision to get fully initiated into the Catholic Church by receiving the Sacraments of Initiation.
4. Mystagogy: this is a period of reflection that happens after you've received your Sacraments. What you've learned throughout RCIA is integrated with your daily life experience.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN RCIA?

RCIA reaches out to everyone. The main purpose of this Rite is to assist prospective Catholics in their journey to become active members of the Church community. Candidates come from a variety of backgrounds. RCIA is meant for adults who are:

- Not Baptized
- Baptized, but have not been Confirmed and/or received First Communion

- Fully initiated into the Catholic Church, but would like to learn more or refresh his/her memory on the Catholic teachings.

WHAT IF I CHANGE MY MIND AFTER JOINING?

You are not pressured to continue the RCIA process if you are no longer interested. Everyone's faith journey is unique and personal. You are always welcome to come back whenever you feel ready.

IS THERE A FEE?

There is no fee to participate in RCIA. You will be provided with all the necessary resources.

WHERE DO I START?

You can start by filling out an RCIA Inquiry Form. You will be contacted and given the next steps. Filling out an RCIA Inquiry Form does not mean that you are committing to the RCIA process. If you have questions that you want the answers to before submitting an inquiry form, contact the Parish Office at 202-726-9094.