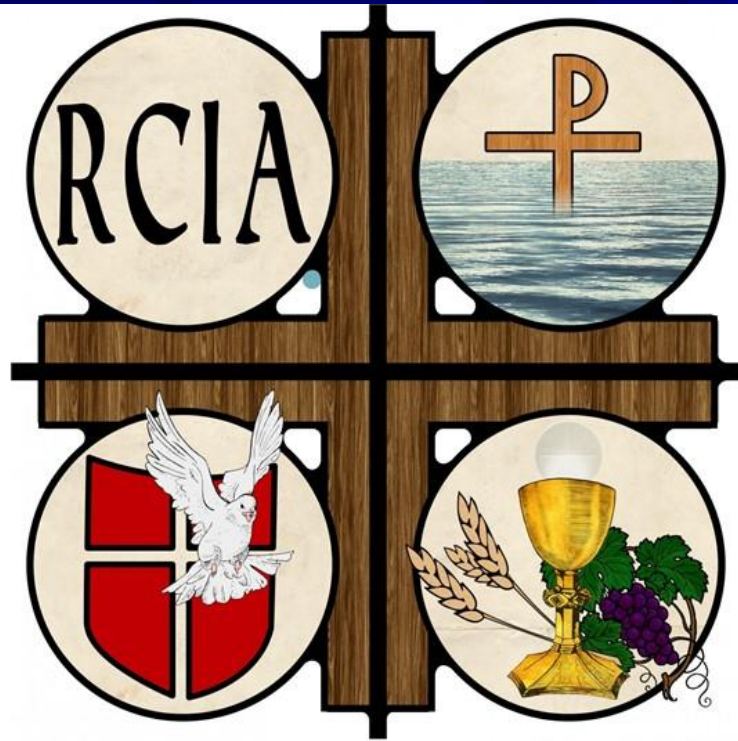


Welcome to the RCIA



**Rite of Christian Initiation
for Adults**

Deacon Ed Prisby

Opening Scripture

Psalms 139: 1-16

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, through the gift of your Son and the power of your Holy Spirit, we ask you to guide us in our faith journey. Help us to hear your voice and to follow where you lead and give us your peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen!

COVID-19 Guidelines from DOSA

- Classroom tables and chairs will be disinfected regularly.
- Maintain social distancing.
- Refrain physical contact with those outside your household (hugging, handshakes, etc).
- Wearing of masks is mandatory.
- Those who are sick and/or are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms are asked to please stay home.

Welcome to the RCIA & RCIC

- RCIA is an acronym for:
 - *The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*
- RCIC is an acronym for:
 - *The Rite of Christian Initiation of Children*
- A process through which adults and children (age 7 or older) become members of the Catholic Church. This consists of steps, periods and Rites that make up the model of Christian Initiation as restored in the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965).

Welcome to the RCIA

- *“From the time of the apostles, becoming a Christian has been accomplished by a journey and initiation in several stages. This journey can be covered rapidly or slowly, but certain essential elements will always have to be present: proclamation of the Word, acceptance of the Gospel entailing conversion, profession of faith, Baptism itself, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and admission to Eucharistic communion.” – CCC 1229*

CCC = Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 1229

Welcome to the RCIA

- Many people are searching for a way to meet their spiritual needs and identify with a community of faith.
- Statistics show that most people respond to a personal invitation.
- RCIA is the Catholic Church's way of extending that personal invitation to you.
- We are here to walk side by side with you on this "Journey of Faith" to help you explore the life, mission, teachings and beliefs of the Catholic Church.

Who is in the RCIA?

- Inquirers come from a broad range of life experiences and backgrounds.
- A person is either a Catechumen or a Candidate.
- A person who has not been baptized is called a "Catechumen."
 - They may have no religious affiliation or background.
 - They may come from a non-Christian religion.
- A person who has received valid Christian baptism is called a "Candidate."
 - They may have been baptized but never really practiced the Christian faith.
 - They may have been baptized and been very active in a non-Catholic Christian faith tradition.

Who is in the RCIA?

- **The common denominator – Many feel a “tug” at their soul and have chosen to act upon it.**
- **Both Catechumens and Candidates are on a journey, preparing for joining the Catholic Church.**

Holy Spirit Catholic Church

RCIA Team

- **Father Amar Nagothu, MSFS – Pastor**
- **Deacon Ed Prisby – RCIA Director**
- **Deacon Pat Goin**
- **Ray Stiles**
- **Ramon Molano**
- **Ron Coleman**
- **Dave Garrett**
- **Matt Meyer**
- **Diane Davis**

Icebreaker Questions...

- What brought you here today?
- Is anyone here with a family member or friend?
- Do you know a parishioner here at Holy Spirit Catholic Church?
- How were you introduced to the Catholic faith and our RCIA process?

Take Your Time – RCIA Is a Process

- People rarely make big life decisions (get married, buy a house, change careers) without significant time and consideration.
- Our initial interest leads us to further exploration, helping us to get to know our options and ourselves better.
- Our Catholic faith is much more than a set of beliefs, doctrines and dogmas...although we have those.
- It's about a relationship that starts with our Lord Jesus Christ that develops and deepens as we encounter Him in our lives.

Why do Catholics Initiate Others?

- Jesus doesn't want us to follow him into the faith blindly.
- He wants us to make the choice freely and with all the information we need to make a decision.
- In the Gospels, Jesus is personally inviting each of us to... "Come, follow me."
- We want everyone to experience the joy and peace through the fullest and most authentic understanding of Jesus found in His One, Holy, Catholic Church.

What Happens in the RCIA?

- We will meet on Sunday mornings as per the schedule.
- The RCIA team known as “catechists” will facilitate the subject matter and discussion for each weekly session.
- Each session is a safe place to discuss the faith and explore your questions.
- All questions are welcomed and honored.

How Long Does the RCIA Last?

- **It depends!**
- **Generally, Catechumens and Candidates who are in RCIA are received into the Catholic Church during the Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Mass. (April 3, 2021)**
- **People come with their own unique stories and needs. Some may need longer to make the commitment and be received into the Church.**
- **Understanding faith is as important as having faith...and that takes time.**

What is Expected of You?

- Attend Mass every Sunday. Either the 5:00 PM Saturday Vigil Mass or the 11:00 AM Sunday Mass.**
- Class attendance and participation each week.**
- Read the study material and be prepared for discussion and questions.**
- Participate in the Rites as we progress through the RCIA process.**
- Come with an open heart and mind.**

Sponsors

- The sponsor is the catechumen's or candidate's link to the parish. They can be a family member or friend.
- The sponsor must be a fully initiated and practicing Catholic.
- The sponsor helps the person to be part of the life of the parish community.
- The sponsor does not need to be an expert; he/she is a companion on the journey.
- Sponsor eligibility form will need to be completed and returned to Deacon Ed before the Rite of Acceptance and Welcoming.
 - First Sunday of Advent at the 11:00 AM Mass on November 29, 2020.

The Four Periods of the RCIA

■ Inquiry

– 8/16/20 – 11/8/20

■ Catechumenate

– 11/15/20 – 2/7/21

■ Purification and Enlightenment

– 2/14/21 – 4/3/21

■ Mystagogy

– 4/11/21 – 5/9/21

Inquiry

- During this period, anyone can “test the waters” and ask questions about the Catholic faith.
- You do not make any commitments or promises.
- This period can last as long as you desire – a few months up to a few years.

Catechumenate

- This word comes from the ancient Greek language and means “a person receiving instruction.”
- During this period you will study and discuss most of the Church’s main beliefs.
- You will also have a sponsor join you on your journey.
- Sponsors are practicing Catholics who have received all the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation).
- We encourage sponsors to attend classes with you and have conversations with you outside of RCIA class.

Purification & Enlightenment

- This period occurs in the weeks before Easter and may include optional rites.
- This time is more prayerful than instructional.
- It is a time of deeper spiritual preparation for the sacraments.
- This period concludes with your reception into the Catholic Church on Holy Saturday (the day before Easter Sunday) through the sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

Mystagogy

- **This final period occurs after your reception in the Catholic Church on Holy Saturday and lasts for several weeks.**
- **It's a time to reflect on the mysteries of the sacraments and to living out your new faith in practical ways.**

Resources & Study Material

- Bible – (NABRE)
- Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)
- RCIA Binders
 - “Journey of Faith” Study Guides
- Symbolon Video Series
- Additional resources will be given throughout the RCIA process

Online Resources

■ www.catholic.com

- Website from Catholic Answers.
- Thousands of pages of FREE articles, video and audio for any question about the Catholic Faith.
- Just type your question in the search bar.

■ www.formed.org

- Website from The Augustine Institute.
- The Catholic Faith, On Demand.
- Video Series, Audio Series, Books, Movies
- \$100/year or \$9.99/month

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES

- **For those already baptized, we will need a copy of your baptismal certificate from the Church you were baptized.**
- **Please contact the church where you were baptized to obtain a copy and provide to Deacon Ed ASAP.**
- **If you have any problems obtaining a copy, please see Deacon Ed.**

Questions



1 Minute Video
CatholicsComeHome.org

Closing Prayer



- Lord of life, you are the true shepherd. You care for us as a shepherd cares for his sheep. You lead us up and down the paths of life and guide us into the safety of the sheepfold when it is dark. You defend us with your life. Help us to recognize your voice as sheep recognize the voice of their shepherd. Guid us this week and walk with us along our paths. Amen!