

A Strong Start in the Faith: The Catholic Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults



Interested in developing your faith or thinking of joining the [Roman Catholic Church](#)? The Catholic RCIA steps are a model of basic faith development...and you are welcome to join us in faith exploration!

Our journey proceeds with these stages and your interest:

Many adults entering the Catholic Church, or those just “thinking about it,” follow a process known as the **RCIA** – the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

It has several distinct stages:

- **Inquiry:** The initial period as you ponder whether to enter the Catholic Church. Here you ask questions and check out the church, but aren't yet ready to commit.
- **Catechumenate:** those who decide to enter the Church and are being prepared for a life in Christ are called *catechumens*, an ancient name from the early Church. In this stage, you develop your faith and are being “catechized” – learning the basic points about Catholic faith and life.
- **Purification and preparation:** The Church community helps you focus and intensify your faith as you prepare commit your life to Christ and be received into the Church. If you're following the RCIA process, you'll go through a beautiful series of Gospel-based learnings and meditations during Lent, which is the time frame of this period.
- **Initiation** itself is the culmination of the whole process! You're received into the Church, where you'll receive the sacraments of initiation: baptism, confirmation, and the Eucharist. (If you've already been baptized, you won't be baptized again.)
- **Mystagogy:** after reception into the Church at Easter, this time lets you reflect and learn more about the mysteries of being a member of the community of faith rooted in the mass in the sacraments in which you now participate fully.

Introductory meetings are to explore whether any of this for me or to ask questions and make decisions about the “Inquiry period” that **begins in October** in Room 204.

RCIA Introductory Meetings:

- **Tuesday, September 5 @ 7:00 - 8:00 PM, or**
- **Thursday, September 14 @ 7:00 - 8:00 PM, or**
- **Sunday, September 17 after 9:30 AM Mass, or**
- **You can contact Dr. Little for a private meeting: tlittle@olfparish.com**

