

# *Come and See...*

## *The RCIA journey may be for you!*

*Have you wondered about...*

- Joining the Catholic faith community
- Celebrating sacraments in the Catholic Church
- Growing in experiencing and understanding Catholicism as a way of life.

*What is RCIA?*

RCIA stands for the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**. It is a process through which adults complete and celebrate their initiation in the Catholic Church.

*Is RCIA for me?*

It is for you if any of the following apply:

- You are an adult who has never been baptized or confirmed or who has never received first Eucharist.
- You are a person who was baptized but not confirmed and/or did not receive first Eucharist.
- You have been a member of another faith community and now wish to discern your involvement with a Catholic community.
- You wish to know more about the Catholic faith.
- You are searching for a faith community in which to belong and deepen your commitment to being a disciple of Jesus Christ.
  - You wish to grow in finding life's meaning and connecting the beliefs and practices of the Catholic faith with real life.

*What Happens in the RCIA process?*

During these process individuals who gather with members of the faith community to reflect upon the Sunday Scripture readings, grow in understanding Catholic beliefs and practices, share and listen to faith stories and discern the call to a faith community. You are free to leave the group at any time. Along the journey the faith community celebrates special liturgical and ritual moments with you. The faith community promises to support you, pray for you and encourage you. The group meets on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. (Childcare is available for all sessions by request.)

You may choose a sponsor or the Church may provide a sponsor for you.

Sometimes sponsors are spouses, family members, friends or a new friend yet to be discovered. Don't worry; we'll help you find a sponsor.

**Welcoming Children into the Catholic Faith**

If you have children of catechetical age (7 or older) who have never been baptized or have not received First Eucharist at the usual time or have not been catechized in the Catholic faith, we invite them to be part of the CIC process (Christian Initiation of Children).

In this process, children grow in God's love, open themselves to the Word of God, nurture a relationship with God and the faith community and treasure the basics of our faith, which lead to being a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Children will meet by arrangement and will participate in the Rites of Initiation process with the adults. They will receive sacraments as appropriate during the Easter Season.

### *Stories from Participants*

“Having been a practicing Christian, my entire life with highs and lows, I find the Catholic faith a very rich experience for me. RCIA was a faith process. The people from the faith community opened their hearts to us and became our friends. They gave us a spiritual longing for the Catholic faith.”

“For me, the RCIA process has meant bonding among candidates, a faith-filled core team and sponsors. As a member of the Church, I now look forward to deepening my intimacy with God...increasing my knowledge of Scripture...the powerful blessings connected with liturgies and rituals, friendly and welcoming parishioners.”

“A couple of years ago, my wife and I started looking for a home church. We came to RCIA and found a feeling of ‘coming home’.”

“I started RCIA last fall with a couple of strangers. Now they are my friends. Because of them, it has become easier to talk about the Catholic faith. ‘Here I am, Lord’.”

The RCIA process involves the entire faith community.

Perhaps you are already a member of the parish and would like to be more significantly involved with the RCIA ministry. Here are a few ways to become involved:

- Take a risk and share this RCIA information with someone.
- Invite and welcome someone who is searching to give us a call.
- Become a sponsor.
- Share your faith story.
- Become an RCIA Core Team member.

We welcome you at any time into this process. Our formal process begins in October. For more information, please contact:

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