

# 2015-2016 RCIA Information

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## What is RCIA?

**The Rite of Christian Initiation** is the process through which adults are initiated into the Catholic Church. It is not merely a class. It is marked by stages of growth and formation, and it is a time of exploration, prayer, and discernment. The stages are listed below. Remember, you should never feel pressured to join the Church. This is *your* journey. Take as much time as you need. We will walk this journey with you, whether it takes one year or many.

- **Inquiry.** We all begin in inquiry. This is a time of initial exploration. It is an opportunity to explore the large questions and determine if you are ready to commit to a relationship with God and with Christ. Once ready, inquirers participate in the “Rite of Acceptance” at which time they are welcomed into the Catechumenate.
- **Catechumenate.** Catechumen have committed to fostering a relationship with God and are now ready to dig a little deeper. We will spend a majority of the year in this stage. It provides time for specific catechesis regarding the Catholic Church. During this time, Catechumen and Candidates learn how to live as disciples of Christ through word and deed. Once ready, Catechumen participate in the “Rite of Election” at which time they become the “elect”.
- **Purification and Enlightenment.** This is the final stage before receiving the Sacraments of Initiation. It is a time of intense prayer and preparation which includes rituals, prayer, service, and a retreat. If ready, our Candidates for full communion will be welcomed into the Church on March 13<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30am Mass. If ready, our Elect will be initiated at our Easter Vigil on Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>.
- **Mystagogy.** This is the final stage of the RCIA. It is a time of reflection as we look back to the experiences of initiation. It is also an opportunity to look beyond the RCIA to the ways we are encouraged to continually live our faith as fully initiated members of the Catholic Church.

**Areas of Formation.** *As was mentioned above, the RCIA is not just a class, it is time of formation. This means that we focus on the many ways we are called to live our faith through prayer, ritual, learning and service.*

- **Prayer:** We are all invited into a personal relationship with God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Like any relationship this takes time and communication. Prayer is our opportunity to take time to talk with God. Throughout RCIA we will experience different forms of prayer. Our goal is to help you build a repertoire of prayer for your own daily life. We all communicate differently our communication with God is no different. I encourage you to explore these different forms of prayer, and discern which is best for you.
- **Ritual:** Rituals help to form us into the people we are called to be. You will experience different rituals and rites throughout this year. The most important of these rituals is our weekly celebration of Mass. ***All Candidates and Catechumen are expected to attend Mass weekly (barring illness or emergency). Following the Rite of Acceptance, Catechumen (those who have not been baptized) will be blessed and sent from the 10:30am Mass. At this time they will participate in a “Dismissal” session. These sessions conclude around 11:30am.*** Candidates and Catechumen will also experience other rites throughout the year. These are opportunities to receive special blessings and support from your entire Christ the King Community. They also mark important steps along this RCIA process.

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- **Learning:** The RCIA is a process of educating our minds and hearts in the mystery of God. We will cover different topics of faith each RCIA session and participants are encouraged to prepare by reading the assigned sections prior to each Tuesday session. However, this is not the only way we encourage you to learn! We encourage you to bring your own questions, both those stirred up through the reading and those that arise due to current events in our world, in your life, and through your prayer.
- **Service:** Our faith is a living, breathing, *active* faith. Without action, driven by love, our faith is dead. We will have opportunities for service throughout the year. **Candidates and Catechumen will be expected to participate in at least two service activities throughout the year.** This is a wonderful way to reflect on the unexpected ways we meet and experience Christ in others.

### Expectations:

- Pray!
- Prepare for and attend weekly Catechesis Sessions (Monday evenings, 7-8:30pm in the Fr. Jones Room).
- Attend Weekly Mass.
  - Attend Dismissal Session - *For Catechumen Only* (those who have not been baptized).
- Participate in *at least* 2 service events throughout the year.
- Attend Overnight Retreat (March 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>)
- Participate in the following Rites:
  - Rite of Acceptance (Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30am Mass)
  - Rite of Sending (Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30am Mass)
  - Rite of Election (Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2pm @ St. Matthew's Cathedral)
  - Easter Triduum (Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>-Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup>)

***We do ask for a \$15 book fee. Please let Megan know if this is an issue in any way.***

### Choosing a Sponsor.

We believe that joining the Catholic Church is a communal process of discipleship. We learn from the experience and faith of those who have already been initiated into the faith *and* who live as disciples of Christ. We ask that each inquirer choose one of these disciples to become their **sponsor**. Your sponsor will walk this journey with you and will speak on your behalf to the entire community.

*It is preferable that you choose a sponsor who is not a boyfriend, girlfriend, fiancé or spouse. If you would like, Megan can pair you with another parishioner.*

### Choosing a Confirmation Saint's Name.

Adults who receive the Sacrament of Confirmation are invited to choose a saint to serve as their own patron saint. If this is the case, you will be confirmed with that Saint's name. This is a practice that reminds us that we are connected with all who have gone before us and all who will come after us. It is an opportunity to request the prayers and intercession of a particular saint.