

Questions and Answers Cont.

Q. Will I need a sponsor or godparent?

A. Yes, a sponsor is required. Ave Maria Parish can provide a sponsor if needed. Sponsors should participate in the study and discussion sessions with the candidate. He or she must be a practicing Catholic in good standing and must already be confirmed.

RCIA Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the gift of faith
and for the Catholic Church.

We pray for those who You are calling to Yourself.
May all in our community open their hearts to the
Fullness of Your love.

Encourage others to seek a greater understanding of
You through us. Allow our parish of Ave Maria to be a
welcoming spiritual home and light to all.

We ask this through your Son Jesus, who is the Way, the
Truth, and the Life for all. Amen.

www.avemarialynnfield.org

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

A Guide for Becoming Catholic



Ave Maria Parish

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What is the RCIA?

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) is a process of growth and discernment regarding the Catholic Church and a person's free choice to become a member.

Throughout this process, candidates engage in the study of Catholic teaching, prayer, discussion, and discernment. At the conclusion of this instruction and based on one's preparedness, the candidate is ready to join the church.

Through the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist), participants become full members of the Catholic faith.

The RCIA is for those who have not been baptized, though it welcomes those who have been baptized in another Christian tradition as well.

RCIA Process

The path we guide you along will depend on where you are at now, regarding Sunday worship, adult learning, and Christian service. Wherever you are in your faith journey, you will meet persons who are role models of faith!

The RCIA is a journey of faith and there are periods within the RCIA process that will help you grow and discern if becoming part of the Catholic church is right for you!

Inquiry: The first step of the RCIA journey is a period of inquiry, where you bring all of the questions you have about the Catholic

Church. Wherever you are in your journey, you can inquire at any time. Anyone interested in the RCIA process should contact Kate McGrath at kmcgrath@ola-smg.org for more information.

Catechumenate: The second period, which begins with the rite of acceptance into the order of catechumens includes catechesis and the rites connected with catechesis.

Purification and Enlightenment: The third and much shorter period follows the Rite of Election, coinciding with the Lenten preparation for Easter and celebration of the sacraments of initiation.

Mystagogy: The final period extends through the whole Easter season and is devoted to the postbaptismal catechesis or mystagogy. The focus during this period is to enter more fully into the life and unity of the community.

Questions & Answers

Q. Can anyone join the RCIA process?

A. Yes, any adult 18 years and older can join. Parents of children and teens in high school who have not yet been baptized should contact Kate McGrath at kmcgrath@ola-smg.org. Children and teens in high school who have not yet been baptized would participate in the RCIA adapted for children.

Q. When do RCIA classes take place?

A. Typically classes run between September through April.