
Sessions will be held
at the

**St. Edward the Confessor
Parish Center**

On Tuesday evenings from

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
beginning on August 22nd

To sign up or for more information:

Call Trevor Huster

at the Parish Center

504-888-0703, Ext. 18



**St. Edward the Confessor
Catholic Church**

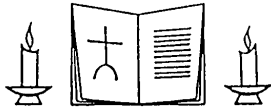
*What does God ask
of you?*

R.C.I.A.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Becoming a Catholic

Most Catholics trace their religious roots back to their baptism into the Catholic Christian community as an infant. They grew up in Catholic families and after proper preparation came to share in the full sacramental life of the church through the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. Baptized Christians of other traditions and unbaptized adults enter into the Catholic Church by undergoing a period of formation in the teaching, spirituality and life of the Church called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.



What is the RCIA?

In 1972, the Congregation for Divine Worship, at the direction of the Second Vatican Council, renewed a rite of the early Church, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. RCIA is a journey which involves the whole faith community and prepares individuals for full entrance into the Church.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, RCIA, offers an opportunity for all who seek the living God to receive faith formation. It is a time to ask questions, to explore, to renew and to convert.

The goal of the RCIA is to foster, or deepen, one's conversion into the mystery of the person of Jesus Christ so as to participate in Divine life. It includes prayer, worship, learning the gospel, catechesis and interaction with Catholics in the local community. RCIA is a spiritual renewal for those seeking to become Catholic as well as for Catholics who want to complete their initiation in the Faith.



RCIA is divided into four phases:

Pre-Catechumenate - an initial stage of evangelization to help strengthen the inquirer's trust and interest in the Church. It begins with a request to learn more about the Catholic faith and ends with the Rite of Acceptance or Welcome, a time when a participant declares an intention to enter the Church and the Church accepts the participant as a catechumen or candidate member. Personal prayer and the reading of Sacred Scripture is encouraged.

Catechumenate - an extended period for pastoral formation and guidance aimed at training participants in the Christian life; it includes catechesis on the truths of Catholic doctrine and worship. Those who experience a true conversion participate in the Rite of Election or Call to Continuing Conversion (usually on the First Sunday of Lent) as they have been chosen to receive the Sacraments of Initiation.

Period of Purification and Enlightenment - during Lent, this period is intended to enlighten the minds and hearts of the participants with a deep knowledge of Christ the Savior. Participants learn about the moral life and service. It culminates in a liturgical rite, usually celebrated at the Easter Vigil, by which the elect are admitted into the Church by receiving Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist.

Mystagogy - a final period following the Easter Celebration during which the newly initiated neophytes study about prayer and participate fully in the sacramental life of our parish community.

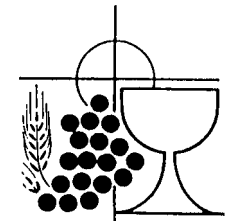
Who is the RCIA for?

- A Any adult not yet baptized who wishes to become a Catholic.
- B Any adult baptized in another Christian tradition who wishes to become a Catholic.
- C Any adult baptized Catholic, who has not yet received the Holy Eucharist and/or Confirmation, and wishes to do so.



How long does it take to become a Catholic?

RCIA is the way the Church ministers to those who seek membership and it recognizes that some will need more time than others to prepare for the lifetime of commitment that comes with full initiation into the Church. In most cases, initiation takes place at the first Easter Vigil after entering the process. However, there are some who may need more time to adequately prepare.



"Come, Follow Me!" - Jesus