

## RCIA TEAM MEMBERS

There will be a team of people who will guide the entire RCIA journey.

The team members are Catholics who are members of St. Michael Catholic Church.

For more information please contact:

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Or visit parish website for more info:

[www.stmcatholicchurch.org/faith-formation/](http://www.stmcatholicchurch.org/faith-formation/)



**St. Michael Catholic Church**  
St. Michael, Minnesota

The R.C.I.A. contains five main stages:

**1) Period of Inquiry** is a time to become acquainted with the Roman Catholic Church and to hear the good news of salvation from Jesus Christ our Savior;

**2) Period of catechumenate** embodies the first stages of commitment leading to full membership. The Rite of Acceptance ( and Welcome) is a liturgical rite, marking the beginning of the catechumenate proper, as the candidates express and the Church accepts their intention to respond to God's call to follow the way of Christ.

It is the lengthiest period of the initiation process.

During this phase, the catechumens now gather with the Catholic community on Sundays for the first part of the mass, during which, together, we hear the Scriptures, respond to them, and reflect on the meaning of God's Word for us personally and as community through the homily. After the homily, catechumens are dismissed , and with their Catechists, continue a process of reflection and application of the Word of God proclaimed in the Sunday assembly.

**3) The Period of Purification and Enlightenment** corresponds to that time known in the Roman Catholic Church as Lent and has the character of a time of retreat for the **elect** who are preparing for Baptism, for the **candidates** who will complete their initiation or enter the full communion of the Catholic Church, and for the **faithful** who will commemorate their own Baptism at Easter.

**4) Celebrating the Sacraments of Initiation** is the liturgical rite, integrated into the Easter Vigil, by which the elect are initiated through Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist. By the waters of Baptism, a person passes into the new life of grace and becomes a member of the Body of Christ. Anointing with special holy oil called **chrism** seals the initiation by the power of the Holy Spirit and participation at the Table of the Lord in the Eucharist marks full membership in the church.

**5) The Period of Mystagogy** lasts from Easter Sunday until the completion of the RCIA schedule for this year.

# Are you interested in becoming Catholic or learning more about the Catholic Church?



An Introduction to

# RCIA

# What is R.C.I.A.?

**R.C.I.A.** (*Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*) is a process whereby those interested in learning about the Catholic faith come together on a weekly basis to learn about the scriptures and the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, and at the same time, to discover where God is present in their lives.

The process is designed for adults and children over the age of seven who are:

- Unbaptized
- Baptized in another Christian tradition
- Baptized Catholic but not fully initiated

The process is concerned with the complete faith formation of the person:

- **Believing** with the Church community
- **Worshipping** with the Church community
- **Living** with the Church community
- **Praying** with the Church community
- **Serving** with the Church community

The RCIA journey begins in September with informational meetings. In October, the scheduled weekly sessions begin. At the Easter Vigil (*Saturday before Easter Sunday*) those who desire to be initiated as members into the Church are brought into full communion with the Church through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.



## TOPICS

### Who is GOD?

Study the Trinity  
Father, Son, Holy Spirit

### What is the Church?

The people of God  
Saints and sinners

### What does the Church believe?

The Creed

### What is the Bible?

Word of God  
Old Testament and New Testament

### What are Sacraments?

Where we experience the power of God

### How do Catholics pray?

Spirituality  
Public prayer  
Personal prayer

### Who are the saints?

People who lived faithful Christian lives

### What is heaven, what is hell?

The eternal perspective

### What is Christian stewardship?

Using God's gifts

### What does it mean to be Catholic?

Living life as a follower of Jesus Christ

## WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

### If I am already baptized:

Supply a baptismal certificate

### If I am not sure about being Catholic:

Attend a few sessions to help you decide

### If I can't make every session:

Make arrangements for make-up

### If I start but don't want to finish:

Just let us know

## WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING?

We will provide the materials at no charge to you (a free will offering will be taken at the end of the journey). We ask you to bring the materials to every session. We will find you a sponsor, who is someone that will walk the RCIA journey with you. Your sponsor will attend the sessions and important celebrations with you, including the Easter Vigil, when we celebrate the sacraments of initiation. The most important thing to bring is yourself and a willingness to walk the journey.

## WHEN DOES IT MEET?

Monday Evenings 7:30-9:00 PM