



RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

- Thursday Evenings, 7:00 pm in the Adult Center
- September 16 – December 9
- Please see page 2 for schedule of topics

RCIA is the program by which adults are initiated into our Roman Catholic community. The RCIA describes a process in which men and women are guided and cared for as they awaken in faith and are gradually introduced to the Catholic way of life.

The RCIA process is a series of carefully planned stages, marked by liturgical rites in the presence of the whole community, in which new Catholics embark on and join us in a continuing and deepening conversion into faith and discipleship. The RCIA takes the distinctive history and spiritual needs of each person into account, differentiating between the baptized and the unbaptized, the catechized and the uncatechized. The needs of mature, practicing Christians from other faith traditions are considered on an individual basis.

The program allows seekers to ask hard questions about Christianity and receive truthful, life-sharing answers from Catholic Christians. The evening gatherings help the seekers link their personal life stories to the Good News as witnessed and lived by the Roman Catholic community.

Should the seeker decide to fully enter the Catholic Church, he or she is initiated through the Sacraments of Initiation, at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday. On that night, when light drives out darkness, joyful sounds fill the silence, and we proclaim and renew our resurrection hope, some of the seekers will culminate their long journey to initiation in the waters of Baptism -- then, with the those already baptized, the newly baptized are sealed with the oil of Confirmation and share the bread and wine of the Eucharist as full members of the Roman Catholic community.

(Excerpts taken and adapted from Jan Francis, Roman Catholic Web Ring)

2010 RCIA Schedule – St. Mary’s Catholic Church

9/16	Overview of Creed & Story of Salvation History
9/23	Trinity, Divine Revelation & Human Response to God
9/30	Dignity of the Human Person, Sin & Grace
10/7	Incarnation & Paschal Mystery, Overview of Mass
10/14	The People of God & the Communion of Saints
10/21	End Times & Last Things
10/28	The Catholic Church: Scripture, Tradition, Magisterium
11/4	Salvation & Justification
11/11	VETERANS’ DAY – No Class
11/18	Liturgy & Worship, including Liturgical Year and Mass in detail
11/25	THANKSGIVING – No Class
12/2	Intro to Sacraments, Sacramental Living & Season of Advent
12/9	Movie: Molokai – The Story of Fr. Damien