

RCIA

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST



The **Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)** is not just a class or program. It is a process of conversion, turning our life toward Jesus and the Catholic Church. It is the process of making disciples (followers, students) of Jesus and prepares a person for a lifelong commitment as a Catholic. The initiation of new members is celebrated each year, typically at the **Easter Vigil**, the night before Easter. At St. John we do have other points of entry on the Calendar: the Feast of Christ the King (in late November) and the Feast of Pentecost (50 days after Easter).

Who is RCIA for? Adults who have never been baptized and want to become Roman Catholic; or adults who **HAVE** been baptized in other Christian denominations but are not yet Catholic; or adults baptized as Catholic, but have been away from Catholicism, maybe they never celebrated Confirmation or have never received Holy Communion. For children and teenagers, they may be a great fit for RCIA; we will meet with you and decide what works best for your family.

Everyone's journey of faith is unique. Some people have done many years of extensive study on their own, they may have been attending other denominations or even the Catholic Mass for years; others may enter the RCIA who have never set foot inside a church. Some folks missed Confirmation when they were younger; some are married to a Catholic and decide it's time for them to be Catholic too; others are engaged to be married and want to explore Catholicism. Every story is different, and inquirers do not all show up with questions in September, neatly fitting into a school-year program. So, we do not think of RCIA as a "calendar call": instead we offer a **Year Round RCIA**. We will work with your time and calendar, and do our best to meet your needs wherever you are in your faith walk. While there are expectations and minimum requirements, more than anything, we want you to experience a real sense of community while you make your way to Jesus in the Sacraments of the Church.

Anyone can attend the RCIA sessions, we call it **CATHOLICISM 101**. There are a couple of dozen people every year who want to learn more, go deeper, and walk alongside the new disciples. This is a great opportunity for those in RCIA to meet other people of the parish, and to be integrated into the community life, not separated out in a special class.

Please contact the St. John parish office and ask for **Todd Gale**, the Director of Faith Formation or **Angel Koerkel** the Coordinator of Sacramental Preparation if you'd like more information.





RCIA could take as little as couple of months for someone well studied, attending Mass, and already intentional about their faith journey. Or it could take two or three years before the person is ready to make the final commitments to the Sacraments and the Church. It typically takes a little less than a year for the formal process. No matter the details, we will journey alongside!

Level 1: INQUIRY (Searching, Asking Questions)

To help those who would like to know more about the person of Jesus, we offer **ALPHA**. This is generally a six session series, meeting once weekly, with a great meal. **There are no expectations!**

Level 2: CATECHUMENATE (Learning and Praying: Disciple-making)

The Catechumenate begins after a ceremony called the **Rite of Acceptance**.

Attendance is expected at the Wednesday

night weekly class; we do have other options to

explore—please don't let a schedule conflict stop your progress! Those who are baptized in other Christian traditions are called **Candidates** throughout all of RCIA. Those unbaptized are called **Catechumens** in this stage.

Level 3: PURITY & ENLIGHTENMENT (Preparing for Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist)

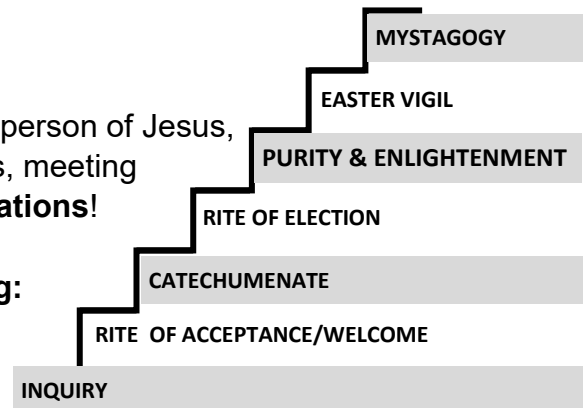
This level officially begins after a large gathering with the Bishop called the **Rite of Election** to take place after Ash Wednesday. This is your opportunity to further reflect and discern. Those who were Catechumens are now called the **Elect** (those not yet Baptized). For those who will receive Sacraments at Easter, we will celebrate four different prayer Rites together during the weekend Masses. **Attendance is expected at this level.**

Level 4: SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist)

In the final week leading up to the Easter Vigil, there will be a number of events designed to help you prepare fully for entry into the Church, some are optional. **There will be a mandatory retreat and Easter Vigil practice** the Saturday of Palm Sunday weekend. We invite and encourage you to attend the **Seder Meal** (Wednesday), **Chrism Mass** at the Cathedral in Lansing (Thursday morning), the **Holy Thursday evening Mass** and **Good Friday afternoon Service**. THEN....**Saturday is the Easter Vigil!!** Your attendance and participation in the Sacraments that night make you full members of the Catholic Church!

Level 5: MYSTAGOGY (Living and Experiencing the Mysteries)

For any faith journey to be fruitful, continued learning and growth are needed. The classes after your celebration of the Sacraments provide you the opportunity to build on your newly formed relationship with Christ. The Elect and Candidates are now titled **Neophytes!**





2021-22 RCIA Schedule for Initiation at Easter Vigil

- 09/15/2021 Introduction: What it means to be Catholic — Basic Prayers & Responses
- 09/22/2021 Belief and Faith — Prayers & Responses
- 09/29/2021 Revelation in Scripture and Tradition — Basic Prayers & Responses
- 10/06/2021 God the Father and Creation — Basic Prayers & Responses
- 10/13/2021 God the Son, Jesus — Basic Prayers & Responses
- 10/20/2021 God the Holy Spirit — Basic Prayers & Responses
- 10/27/2021 The Clear Kerygma (Good News Preached)— Basic Prayers & Responses
- 11/03/2021 The Church — Sharing Our Story
- 11/10/2021 More on Scripture — Sharing Our Story
- 11/17/2021 God becomes Human; The Incarnation — Sharing Our Story

Updated
7/27/21

11/24/2021 NO SESSION-THANKSGIVING

12/01/2021 Mamma Mary — Sharing Our Story

12/08/2021 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION—Class at 6pm, Mass together at 7pm

12/16/2021 NO SESSION

12/23/2021 NO SESSION

12/30/2021 NO SESSION

01/05/2022 Prayer Introduction — Lives of the Saints

01/12/2022 Four Last Things — Lives of the Saints

01/19/2022 Saved Through Sacraments — Lives of the Saints

01/26/2022 Baptism and Confirmation — Lives of the Saints

02/02/2022 Eucharist — Lives of the Saints

02/09/2022 Reconciliation / Confession and Anointing of Sick — Lives of the Saints

02/16/2022 Holy Orders and Matrimony — Lives of the Saints

02/23/2022 Ten Commandments and the Moral Law — Lives of the Saints

03/02/2022 ASH WEDNESDAY Ashes Service 7:00pm

SUNDAY 3/6 RITE OF SENDING & ELECTION TBA

03/09/2022 Purity & Enlightenment: Virtues and Vices

SUNDAY 3/13 Penitential Rite Noon Mass (Candidates)

03/16/2022 Satan's Plan, Sin, Our Identity — Lives of the Saints

SUNDAY 3/20 1st Scrutiny Noon Mass (Elect)

03/23/2022 Deeper into the Deep — Lives of the Saints

SUNDAY 3/27 2nd Scrutiny Noon Mass (Elect)

03/30/2022 Call of Holiness — Lives of the Saints

SUNDAY 4/3 3rd Scrutiny Noon Mass (Elect)

04/06/2022 Church Tour, Final Q & A — Lives of the Saints

SATURDAY 04/09 RCIA Practice and Retreat Day 10-4:00

WEDNESDAY 04/13 Seder Meal

THURSDAY 04/14 Chrism Mass & Holy Thursday

FRIDAY 04/15 Good Friday

SATURDAY 04/16 Easter Vigil

HOLY WEEK

04/20/2022 Study of ACTS

04/27/2022 Study of ACTS

05/04/2022 Study of ACTS

05/11/2022 Study of ACTS

05/18/2022 Study of ACTS

05/25/2022 Study of ACTS

06/01/2022 Study of ACTS

SUNDAY 6/05 Pentecost



2022 RCIA LENT SCHEDULE FOR RITES and SPECIAL EVENTS



03/02 ASH WEDNESDAY Ashes Service 7:00pm
For EVERYONE to kick off Lenten Season!

03/06 SUNDAY — RITE OF SENDING at 10 a.m. MASS St. John Church
For Candidates and Catechumen who are ready to proceed.
In this Rite Fr. Chas will SEND US to the Bishop. Sponsors included!

03/06 SUNDAY — RITE OF ELECTION w/ Bishop probably 3:00p.m. St. Thomas Aquinas Church in East Lansing
We will travel to St. Thomas and all those who have been SENT will now be received formally by the Bishop. The Catechumen are now called THE ELECT. Candidates are still Candidates. Sponsors are welcomed!

03/09 Wednesday Regular Class

03/13 SUNDAY Penitential Rite Noon Mass (Candidates)
At Mass, after the Homily, special prayers and blessings for the CANDIDATES. Sponsors please attend! After the Rite, ALL ELECT & CANDIDATES will DISMISS to a gathering in the Community Room until the end of Mass.

03/16 Wednesday Regular Class

3/20 SUNDAY 1st Scrutiny Noon Mass (Elect)
At Mass, after the Homily, special prayers and blessings for the ELECT. Sponsors please attend! After the Rite, ALL ELECT & CANDIDATES will DISMISS to a gathering in the Community Room until the end of Mass. This is first of three.

03/23 Wednesday Regular Class

03/27 SUNDAY 2nd Scrutiny Noon Mass (Elect) Second of three. (Details above)

03/30 Wednesday Regular Class Deeper into the Deep

04/03 SUNDAY 3rd Scrutiny Noon Mass (Elect) Third of three. (Details above)

04/06/21 Wednesday Regular Class Church Tour, Final Q & A

04/09 SATURDAY RCIA Practice and Retreat Day 10-4:00 in Community Center
Lunch included. First Confessions for the Candidates.

04/14 THURSDAY Chrism Mass (in morning at Cathedral in Lansing) & **Holy Thursday Service 7:00pm** (at St. John Church)

04/15 FRIDAY Good Friday Service 1:00 at St. John

04/16 SATURDAY Easter Vigil 9:00 Start. Arrive 8:30ish.

The Wednesdays that follow are called MYSTAGOGY. Seven Weeks of THE BOOK OF ACTS.