

RCIA

The RCIA and RCIC Faith journey.

***Come join us for an Inquiry Session on Sunday July 17th or Sunday August 7th
(After our 9:00 Mass – Parish Library)***

What is the RCIA journey?

RCIA is short for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. It is the process for unbaptized adults and adults of other Christian Churches to become members of the Catholic Church. The process includes prayer, reflection, and learning.

To search, to belong, to mature, to be nourished, to continue growing, to love and be loved: these and others are fundamental stirrings of the human heart. Our lives are lived in a manner of seeking satisfaction of these very deep hungers throughout the journey of life. RCIA is the experience of discovering that one's journey is caught up in the mystery of God's loving plan for all people. For adults who sense a desire to become members of the Catholic Church, RCIA is the prayerful manner in which the journey to Catholic Christianity unfolds.

Have you ever asked yourself the following questions?

- How is the Catholic Christian faith different from other Christian religions?
- Will being a member of the Catholic Church make a difference in my life?
- Will being a Catholic help me develop and strengthen my relationship with God?
- Will my participation in the Mass and the sacraments really enhance the fullness of life for me that is promised in the Scriptures and help me in my pilgrimage to heaven?

If you have asked yourself any of these questions, the RCIA process will help you answer them. Life is a journey on which a person is constantly learning, growing and changing. This process is a step in that journey and lays the groundwork; through information and experiences, in helping you decide if you want to be a member of the Catholic faith. The RCIA will provide you the opportunity to learn, ask questions, pray, and experience what is meant by being a Catholic Christian and entering into a relationship with God and the Catholic community.

Who can be part of the RCIA journey?

- Someone who has never been baptized.
- Someone who has been baptized in another faith tradition, but who wishes to join the Catholic faith.
- A person who has been baptized a Catholic, but is not fully catechized, that is, not having received their first Holy Communion and/or the sacrament of Confirmation.

How do I find out more about the RCIA journey?

The Catholic Church is always ready to welcome those who wish to become part of our faith community. St. John the Baptist Parish makes a special effort to reach out to anyone interesting in exploring the possibility of becoming Catholic. There is never any pressure of obligation to actually become Catholic. We enthusiastically welcome you to join us on our spiritual journey. If you have an interest or know of someone who may be interested in the Church, please plan on joining us for an "Inquiry Session" on Sunday, July 17th or Sunday August 7th immediately after our 9:00am Mass in the parish Library. Or you may call the Parish Office at 717-235-2156, our Rel. Ed Office at 717-235-2439 and/or e-mail us at reled@sjbnf.org.

