

How Does One Become Roman Catholic?

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (R.C.I.A.)

What is R.C.I.A.?

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a gradual process of discernment and conversion instituted by the Roman Catholic Church to respond to the needs of adults and children of catechetical age who wish to become disciples of Jesus Christ in the Catholic Church.

This process includes periods of instruction and formation in faith which are marked by celebrations of the Liturgical Rites appropriate to each stage on the journey.

RCIA is not a program but an apprenticeship into the life, worship and mission of the Catholic Church. Each candidate is accompanied by a sponsor, who assists the Candidate along the way and serves as a witness to their faith and intention.

The R.C.I.A. also offers spiritual counsel and prayer support. Each candidate is listened to and is treated with dignity, respect, and confidentiality.

Who is R.C.I.A. for?

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is for:

- ✚ Those who have never been baptized.
- ✚ Baptized Christians of other faith traditions who wish to be in full communion with the Catholic Church.
- ✚ Catholics, baptized as infants, but who have never celebrated the sacraments of

Eucharist and/or Confirmation.

✚ Anyone who wants to learn more about the Catholic faith.

Perhaps you are married to a Catholic or attended one of our Liturgies, and would like to know more about our faith, life and worship. Just come and see...

How does R.C.I.A. work in a parish?

On Sunday, the Catechumens(those preparing for Baptism) and Candidates (those baptized already) participate in the Liturgy of the Word at Mass, where they listen to the Scripture Readings and reflect on its meaning in their lives, become spiritually nourished and moulded into discipleship with Jesus Christ.

They also meet one evening each week to share their faith stories, learn the teachings of the Catholic Church, discuss different faith issues, and pray together.

Candidates are initiated gradually through a series of Liturgical Rites celebrated in the midst of the Faith Community. The journey takes a minimum of one year, but readiness depends on a free response from the candidate and each step will wait until one is ready to follow Jesus as His disciple.

The Elect are initiated into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil Liturgy (Saturday night before Easter) by celebrating the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

The Feast of Pentecost concludes the RCIA process and the newly Baptized or received into the full communion continue their life long journey of faith in the Roman

Catholic Church.

What is the first step in becoming Catholic?

Anyone who would like to learn about the Catholic Church and/or possibly become a member of the Church is encouraged to talk with the priests or a deacon in their local Catholic church ([click here for your area church](#)) or to contact the Archdiocesan Liturgy Office at: liturgy@romancatholic.kingston.on.ca or 613.548-4461 ([Liturgy Office](#)). We will be glad to help you.