

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Period of Evangelization and Precatechumenate

Starting the Journey: The period of evangelization and pre-catechumenate is a time of inquiry when an individual begins to respond to some stirrings within to seek out life with Christ in the community of Catholic Christians. This is a period of searching, asking questions, and the initial stirrings of faith. During this period “faithfully and constantly the living God is proclaimed...” The *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (RCIA) at St. Mary’s Basilica provides opportunities for individuals to step back and explore this call as well as what the Church offers to respond to this call for life.

Sunday, September 18, 2016 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	Inquiry Session 1 Welcome to the RCIA!
Sunday, September 25, 2016 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	Inquiry Session 2 What is Faith?
Sunday, September 14, 2016 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	Inquiry Session 3 Who is Jesus Christ and The Holy Trinity?
Sunday, October 2, 2016 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	Inquiry Session 4 The Bible and Divine Revelation
Sunday, October 9, 2016 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	Inquiry Session 5 Your Prayer Life
Sunday, October 16, 2016 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	Inquiry Session 6 Catholic Prayers and Practices
Sunday, October 23, 2016 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	Inquiry Session 7 The Mass and The Church Year
Sunday, October 30, 2016 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	Inquiry Session 8 Places in a Catholic Church
Sunday, November 6, 2016 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	Inquiry Session 9 Who Shepherds the Church?
Sunday, November 13, 2016 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	Inquiry Session 10 The Church as Community
Sunday, November 20, 2016 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	Inquiry Session 11 Mary and The Saints
Sunday, November 27, 2016 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	Inquiry Session 12 Eschatology: The “Last Things”

The Goal: Because of the above evangelization, one hopefully enters the process of conversion that is the work of the Holy Spirit. Conversion is the process of turning a person of little or no faith into a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Who Are you?	Unbaptized Adult
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The Next Step in the Journey: After an appropriate period of inquiry during the period of evangelization and pre-catechumenate, the inquirer may now publicly declare their intention to continue their journey of faith toward full initiation in the Catholic Church. This is the first of the public rituals celebrated in the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* called the rite of acceptance into the order of catechumens.

The decision to celebrate the rite of acceptance is a mutual decision between the inquirer and the community. They are both discerning the following movements within the inquirer's life:

The prerequisite for making this first step is that the beginnings of the spiritual life and the fundamentals of Christian teaching have taken root in the candidates. Thus there must be evidence of the first faith...and of an initial conversion and intention to change their lives and to enter into a relationship with God in Christ. Consequently, there must also be evidence of the first stirring of repentance, a start to the practice of calling upon God in prayer, a sense of the Church and some experience of the company and spirit of Christians... (42)

During the rite of acceptance the entire community, represented by the sponsors and the assembly, offer its support and witness to the newly professed catechumen as they continue on their journey of faith toward full initiation in the Catholic Church.

Week of November 27th through December 3rd, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discernment Interview(s) Meeting with the Inquirer(s), Sponsor(s) and a member of the RCIA Team.
Sunday, December 4, 2016 9 AM Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens

Who Are you?	Baptized Christian Baptized Catholic Christian (No 1 st Communion or Confirmation)
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The Next Step in the Journey: After an appropriate period of inquiry, the baptized Christian and Catholic Christian may now publicly declare their intention to continue their journey of faith toward full initiation in the Catholic Church. This is the first of the public rituals celebrated in the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* called the rite of welcome.

The decision to celebrate the rite of welcome is a mutual decision between the inquirer and the community. They are both discerning their desire to continue to develop the seeds of faith that were given to them at baptism. Developing faith includes three distinct, but interrelated processes: developing one's individual relationship with God, developing one's sense of belonging in a Christian community, and developing one's understanding of and allegiance to the institutional church.

During the rite of welcome the entire community, represented by the sponsors and the assembly, offer its support and witness to the baptized Christian and Catholic Christian as they continue on their journey of faith toward full initiation in the Catholic Church.

Week of November 27th through December 3rd, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discernment Interview(s) Meeting with the Inquirer(s), Sponsor(s) and a member of the RCIA Team.
Sunday, December 4, 2016 9 AM Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rite of Welcome for Candidates