

RCIA

The *Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults* is an initiation process for those who are interested in the Catholic faith. It is a process of formation and celebration. Non-Catholics can clarify their understanding of what Catholics believe and what “being Catholic” really means in the Inquiry process, which is conducted year round and requires no long-term commitment. Those who wish to become full participants of the Catholic community take part in the Catechumenate, which is an intense *process* leading to the reception of the Sacraments. Please note the word “process”, for each person experiences their own spiritual journey, which contains many variables that cannot fit into the same time frame.

Children of catechetical age (age 7 or older) who have not been baptized or who were baptized in another Christian tradition prepare for their “Initiation Sacraments” (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) through the Children’s Catechumenate. Modeled on the adult process, catechists lead children in “lectionary based catechesis”, helping them to identify their own journey with God and understand the Gospel message at their stage of maturity. This process generally takes at least two years depending on the support of the child’s parents and the progress of the child in coming to an understanding of the faith at their grade level.

To clarify, this process is meant for adults and children, over the age of 7, who are:

- Unbaptized, seeking full initiation
- Baptized in another Christian tradition, seeking to be received into full communion in the Catholic Church
- Baptized in the Catholic Christian tradition seeking to complete initiation through the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.

Baptized Catholics seeking adult Confirmation enter into a separate program.

If you feel the call to full discipleship in Christ and would like to discuss questions you have about the process, please contact Nancy Lucash at 609-530-9507 or email her at stjamesedu@gmail.com