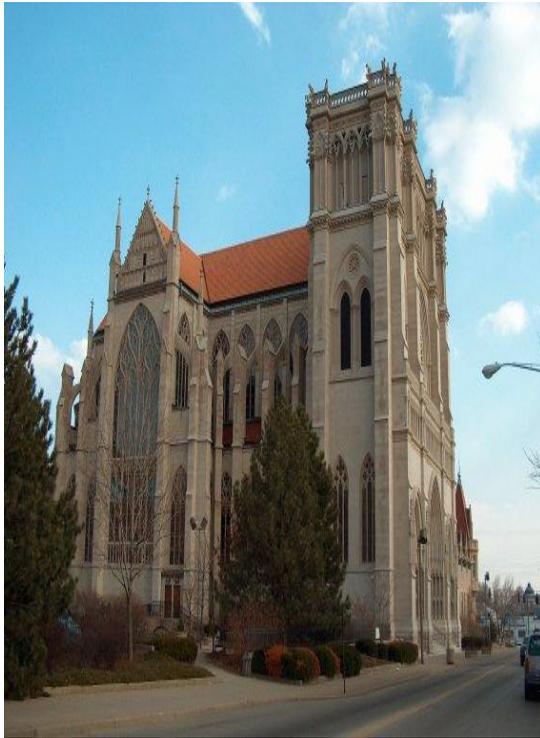


Coming to Christ in His Church

RCIA In The Roman Catholic
Diocese Of Covington



*“Whoever follows me will not walk in
Darkness, but will have the light of Life.”
(John 8:12)*

*Is God calling you into a deeper
relationship with Him? Is there
something missing in your life? Are
you searching for something more in
life: its meaning, its purpose?*

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, we invite you to explore the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults).

RCIA: Conversion Of Heart And Mind

Through the RCIA, the Church invites you into its rich traditions and deep roots as the family of God. In the Church, you will become one with Jesus and His grace-filled community through Baptism into the Church.

Let Jesus, Who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6), transform you into the person God created you to be.

Former RCIA participants give witness to the many blessings of this process:

“I’ve gone from thinking that there might be a god to knowing that God is here and being able to talk to him in prayer.”

“Now I can fully see what God truly did for us.”

“The RCIA set my feet on a really Christian way of life from day to day.”

“I look forward to a new life with all my new friends, and a closer walk with Christ.”

“The RCIA process made my whole life more complete.”

What is RCIA?

RCIA stands for **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**. In the beginning of the Church, the normal way that adults became Christian was through a long formation process called the “catechumenate”. During these early days, the Roman Empire was dominated by pagan practices and becoming Christian carried the risk of death, so entrance into the Church was a very serious matter. By the 4th century, Christianity was given legal protection and the catechumenate flourished with large numbers of people being baptized, many in infancy. Eventually, the entire western world was Christian and the catechumenate disappeared. Centuries later, the Bishops of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) recognized that much of the western world had slipped into secular ways and abandoned Christianity. They decided to restore the RCIA as an effective way to spread the Good News in the modern world and to enrich the life of the Church. The final form of the RCIA was decreed in 1987 as the way the Church welcomes new members.

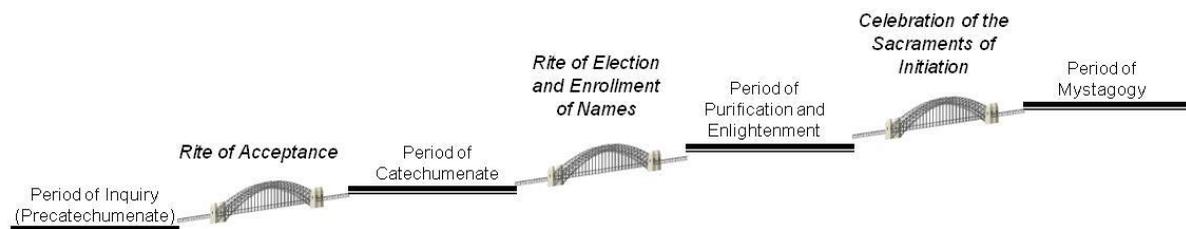
RCIA is a Process, Not a Program

RCIA includes opportunities for:

- Beginning or enriching your spiritual journey and faith formation
- Developing a relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church
- Studying Jesus’ Gospel message and considering His call to you

**We, the Church in the
Diocese of Covington,
welcome your interest in the
Catholic Church.
We pray that you will be open
to God calling you into a
deeper relationship with Him
through the Catholic Church.
We invite you, on behalf of
Jesus Christ, to “Come, and
you will see.”
(John 1:39)**

The RCIA includes four periods bridged by rites:



Period of Inquiry: A time to ask questions, learn the basics about Jesus, scripture, Church teaching, and living the Catholic faith in the community.

Rite of Acceptance (*bridge to the next period*): Inquirers publicly express their intention to become members of the Church. Inquirers become Catechumens.

Period of Catechumenate: A time to continue and deepen the study of God, Sacred Scripture, Church teaching, Sacred Tradition, and to experience liturgical and personal prayer and the life of the Church.

Rite of Election and Enrollment of Names (*bridge to the next period*): Catechumens express a firm commitment to enter the Church by signing the Book of Elect. The Bishop, on behalf of God and the Church, elects the catechumens to receive the Sacraments of Initiation.

The Catechumens become The Elect.

Period of Purification and Enlightenment: A time of serious reflection on what it means to follow Christ in the Catholic Church. Also a period of intense spiritual preparation to purify the heart and mind to receive the Sacraments of Initiation.

Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation (*final bridge; normally celebrated at the Easter Vigil*): Elect are baptized, confirmed and receive Holy Communion. They become full members of the Catholic Church.

Period of Mystagogy: A time to reflect on the experience of initiation, to develop a deeper understanding of the sacramental life, and to enter more fully into the daily life, mission, and prayer of the Catholic Church.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Catechumen – person who has never been baptized and desires to become Catholic and has expressed this desire through the Rite of Acceptance

Candidate – person baptized in a non-Catholic tradition who desires to be in full Communion with the Catholic Church

Elect – person who is making final preparations to celebrate the sacraments of initiation in the Catholic Church and has expressed this intention at the Rite of Election and Enrollment of Names

Inquirer – person who expresses interest in learning more about the Catholic Church

Rite – a liturgical celebration. In the RCIA, rites are liturgical ceremonies that occur in the presence of the worshiping assembly and mark the beginning of each period of the RCIA

Sacraments – sacred signs entrusted to the Church by Jesus Christ to give us a share in His divine life (grace); visible signs of the real, yet invisible, mysteries of God in our midst; there are seven official sacraments of the Catholic Church; they are: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, Matrimony

Sacraments of Initiation – three sacraments of the Catholic Church which, when all have been received, bring a person into full communion with the Church (making them a full member); they are: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist (Holy Communion)

For more information on the RCIA, contact:

(parish name and contact information here)