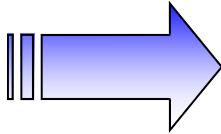


The Periods and Rites for RCIA

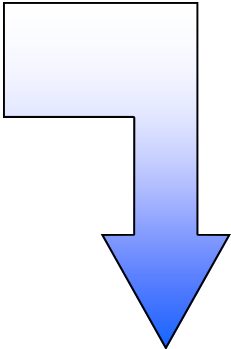
The Beginnings of Faith

Your entry into the Catholic Faith begins before you ever step into a church or call the office. Something opens your heart to grace. It may simply be your openness to the Holy Spirit. It may be an invitation from a family member or a friend. Your openness at that moment was the beginning of your new faith journey



Period of Inquiry

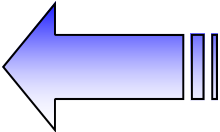
The Period of Inquiry begins when you contact the parish and are introduced to the *very* basics of what the Catholic Church believes about Scripture, Tradition, Prayer, and the Sacra-



Period of the Catechumenate

At the Rite of Acceptance, the unbaptized person becomes a Catechumen. Being a catechumen means you are learning about our faith.

At the Rite of Welcoming, a person baptized in another denomination becomes a *candidate*. As a candidate you are also learning more about our faith but we call you a candidate in recognition that you are already baptized.



Rite of Acceptance/Welcoming

After a period of inquiry, when you are ready, you undergo the Rite of Acceptance (for the unbaptized) or the Rite of Welcoming (for those baptized in another denomination).


These rites are generally done at Sunday Mass so that you may declare your faith and your interest in the Catholic Church in the presence of the community of believers that you are going.

*Throughout the process there may be other presentations

While the RCIA contains many steps, if you ever feel this is not for you are free to leave at any time.

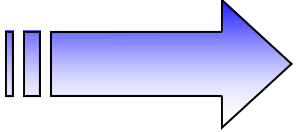
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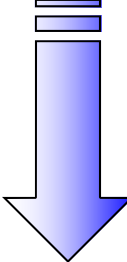
Rite of Sending/Election

For people entering at the Easter Vigil, there is a Rite of Election held at the beginning of Lent presided over by the bishop at regional gathering. The Rite of Election recognizes that you have been preparing and are now in final preparation to become Catholic. By gathering together in regions we recognize that the church you are joining is not just a single building but a universal church.



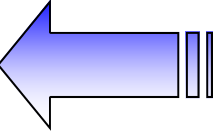
Period of Purification/Enlightenment

After the Rite of Election, the people are now called the Elect. As part of final preparation there is a penitential rite for the baptized and scrutinies for the unbaptized. These are simple rites that call us to examine our lives and how we are called to turn them over to God.



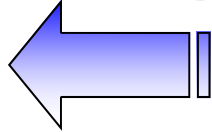
Mystagogy

Learning about our faith does not end when one has received all the sacraments. We should constantly be growing deeper in our relationship with the Lord. Mystagogy is a brief period of time after one is received into the church to discuss what receiving the Sacraments of Initiations have meant for you and where God is calling you to go from this point in your life.



**Life
in
Christ**

“Full, Conscious,
and Active
Participation
(S.C. 14)



Sacraments of Initiation

Baptism

Confirmation

Eucharist

