

RCIA A Journey of Faith



The RCIA program is designed for adults who are unbaptized or those who were baptized as infants in the Catholic faith but have little experience with the church or have never prepared for the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.

Individuals baptized in another Christian tradition find this process to be helpful in their discernment of becoming a Roman Catholic.

Call or email the parish office to discuss your journey.



San Pablo Catholic Church

550 122nd Street-Ocean
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San Pablo Catholic Church

**HOW DO
I
BECOME
A
CATHOLIC?**



RCIA
Rite of Christian
Initiation of Adults

305-289-0636

YOU ARE INVITED TO EXPLORE !

The process of joining the Catholic Church is known as the **R**ite of **C**hristian **I**nitiation of **A**dults. (RCIA). It is a process of inquiry, learning and sharing. The journey consists of four distinct stages.



THE FOUR STAGES OF YOUR JOURNEY

- ◆ INQUIRY
- ◆ CATECHUMENATE
- ◆ PURIFICATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT
- ◆ MYSTAGOGIA

INQUIRY

This is a time when someone that feels drawn to the expression of Christian faith and values begins to formally ask questions of the faith community.

What do Catholics believe? Who is God? How is God active in my life? What are the sacraments?

This period may last for a few months or even longer depending on the individual.

CATECHUMENATE

Those who enter this stage are claimed for Christ and marked with the sign of the cross. If they have never been baptized they are called catechumens . If they have already been baptized in another Christian tradition, they are called candidates.



This stage is a time for catechumens and candidates to deepen in faith and commitment to Christ. Although they are not yet able to share at the table of the Eucharist, they participate in the liturgy each Sunday at the Mass. They continue to deepen their relationship with Christ and when they, with guidance, discern that they are ready, they now enter into the next stage of the journey.....

PURIFICATION ENLIGHTENMENT

MYSTAGOGIA— going deeper into the mysteries

This stage begins on the Sunday before the beginning of Lent. Special Rites known as “*the Scrutinies*” are celebrated with the elect candidates on the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of Lent. This stage of the RCIA culminates at the Easter vigil with Baptism, a profession of faith, Confirmation and the reception of the Eucharist.

This final stage of the RCIA finds the newly Baptized and Confirmed rejoicing in their awareness of God’s presence in them and around them. They continue to gather together to share prayer and community with one another as they become more integrated into the faith community of our parish. This stage concludes with the feast of Pentecost and they are sent to share their experience of Christ with others.

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