

Within RCIA - or the Catechumenate as it is sometimes called - men and women in all stages of their faith journey and from all backgrounds come together in a non-threatening and non-pressured atmosphere to learn more about the Catholic Church.

RCIA provides a forum for shared spiritual growth and a means to explore the Catholic Faith through:

- **Sacred Scripture**
- **Sacred Tradition**
- **Liturgy & Prayer**
- **The Sacraments**
- **The Parish Community**
- **The Individual Sponsorship**

If I come to RCIA class, does that mean I have to become Catholic?

Absolutely not!
Your faith journey is completely your decision!

Are you ready to begin?

Or do you just need more information?

Please call the Religious Education Office
(785) 242-7258

or

email Carmelita Sieg at
shcreled@sacredheartottawa.org



R.C.I.A.

The Rite of Christian
Initiation of Adults

GOD CALLS

GOD INVITES

WE RESPOND

Sacred Heart Church

Fr. Bill Fisher, Pastor

408 South Cedar

Ottawa, KS 66067

Phone: 785-242-2174



What is RCIA?

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process established for the universal Church for individuals to become Catholic and receive the sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist. This initiation process also involves a parish community experiencing a renewal in faith as it prepares and welcomes new members into the Church. The Rite speaks of conversion as a “spiritual journey”. Centered on fostering a deep relationship with Jesus and the Church he founded, this journey takes place through distinct stages over a period of time suitable to bring about a thorough catechesis, significant experience of the parish community, and commitment to the liturgical and moral life of the Catholic faithful. The RCIA process is a restoration of the ancient catechumenate, arising within the first three centuries following the era of the apostles. It was the early Church’s way of Christianizing the pagan Roman Empire. The Second Vatican Council called for the restoration and use of this venerable and powerful method of initiation for the worldwide Church.

Q: Who is RCIA for?

Persons in need of Baptism, baptized in another Christian tradition who desire to become Catholic, baptized Catholics in need of First Communion and/or Confirmation, practicing Catholics seeking a deeper understanding of their faith, and Parishioners who would like to support those who are seeking to become Catholic.

Q: How does our Parish attract inquirers each year who consider becoming Catholic?

The short answer is YOU! When any parish has many inquirers year after year, it is the fruit of the Holy Spirit as parish members open their hearts to welcome others. Members of a welcoming and evangelizing community take seriously their call to share the Divine message of salvation. It happens in parish families, in the workplace, in gatherings with friends and neighbors, and in daily contacts. Give thanks to God as He continuously strengthens each of us who seek to do His will in offering a gentle, humble, and clear welcome to the Catholic faith.

“Go out into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature.” (Mark 16:15)

Q: How long is the RCIA process?

Classes at Sacred Heart begin in September and continue until a few weeks following Easter. The Church greatly respects the time each person needs for conversion and decision and so the length of preparation may span more than one class year.

Q: What is next for those who entered the Catholic Church this Easter?

We have reached the 4th period of the RCIA process, which is the neophyte year. All who were baptized and received into full communion are called neophytes in this period until the anniversary of their initiation next Easter. This post-baptismal catechesis is called mystagogy. It is a time for deepening the Christian experience, especially in appreciation for the sacramental life, for spiritual growth, and for entering more fully into the life and unity of the Catholic community. The neophytes now share with Christ, and His Body in the parish community, the intimate communion of the Eucharist. Now they have access to all the means of sanctification. We as a parish community pledge to help them grow and mature in the Christian life and to develop a genuine Catholic worldview. Please pray for all those who God has called to join us as we continue on our pilgrimage to our Father in Heaven.

