

## Frequently Asked Questions - RCIA

### What is RCIA?

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) helps non-Catholics and non-practicing Catholics learn more about Catholicism through a 9-month process consisting of classes, discussions, prayers and ceremonies.

### What is the process and when are the classes?

Classes start in September and end in May. They are held Monday nights from 7:00-9:00pm, are led by the parish priests, and include a presentation, discussion, and questions and answers. Those who have never been baptized (the Elect) enter the Church by receiving the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist. Everyone celebrates the sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) during the Easter Vigil. After Easter, six classes remain.

### What is taught in RCIA?

The teachings are authentic and official Catholic Church Catechism that has been handed down to us in both oral and written form, and, for centuries, has been guarded by the Church.

### How do I begin?

Contact the Parish Office, Fr. Matthew Carroll, O.P. ( [frcarroll@stgertrude.org](mailto:frcarroll@stgertrude.org) ), or inquire via the web page at [www.stgertrude.org](http://www.stgertrude.org) and click on "Ministries/RCIA" and fill out the short form.

### How much does it cost?

There is no cost to you for exploring if you are being called into the Catholic faith.

### I've been baptized in another religion. Will I be re-baptized?

No. You will enter the Catholic Church by making a "Profession of Faith."

### I'm divorced. How does this affect me joining the Church?

Everyone's situation is different, so please contact the pastor or chaplain for more information.

### When can I become Catholic?

Generally a person will join the RCIA in September and be Confirmed Catholic at the Easter Vigil Mass. Occasionally, this time frame changes according to the needs of the person.

### What if I go through the RCIA and choose not to become Catholic?

That's your decision. You will not be pressured to become Catholic. Some people learn about Catholicism for a few years before deciding to become Catholic and some never choose to do so.