



# ST. GERTRUDE PARISH

## RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Information Sheet

*Have you thought about becoming Catholic?*

*Do you often wonder why Catholics do things the way they do?*

*Were you baptized Catholic? If so, do you need the Sacraments of the Holy Eucharist or Confirmation?*

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then maybe you are being led to RCIA!

RCIA is a process where adults are introduced to the Catholic faith and way of life.

RCIA normally takes 9 months, although it can vary according to personal situations. It includes 4 periods that are covered over the course of the entire program:

- The **Inquiry Period** introduces basic information about the Catholic faith and communicates the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Inquirers are invited to initial conversion and, although there is no obligation, classes are intended to help them decide whether they would like to learn more.
- The **Period of the Catechumenate** is an extended time in which Catechumens (those not baptized) and Candidates (those validly baptized) are given pastoral formation and guidance to train them in the Christian life.
- The **Period of Purification and Enlightenment**, which corresponds with Lent, is intended to increase introspection and grow closer to God. The aim of this period: eliminate what is weak and sinful and affirm what is holy.
- The **Period of Mystagogy** is a special time during Easter in which the neophyte (newly initiated person) deepens their understanding of the mysteries of faith and is more fully immersed in the life of the Church.

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