

### **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.

### **Who is RCIA for?**

1. Persons in need of Baptism.
2. Persons baptized in another Christian tradition who desire to become Catholic.
3. Persons baptized Catholic in need of First Communion and/or Confirmation.

### **How long is the RCIA process?**

The time varies, but is rarely shorter than six months. In our parish, the phases of the RCIA process leading to the sacraments of initiation have generally concluded in approximately nine months. The Church greatly respects the time each person needs for conversion and decision. The RCIA text gives guides for discerning this on a case by-case basis.

### **How can I request information about the RCIA in our parish?**

The parish office can forward your request for information to our RCIA coordinator, who will contact you and ask you a few questions to determine where you are in your faith journey. Inquiry sessions begin each September in our parish. Contact the parish office at 503-792-4231 and watch the bulletin for details.