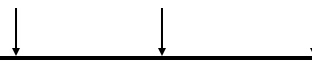
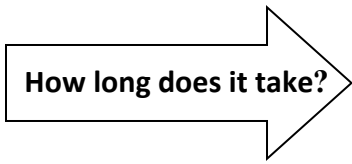




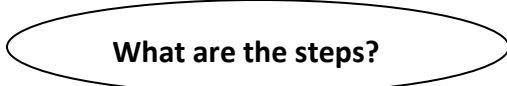
What is the R.C.I.A.? – The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.) is a series of steps conducted in the context of learning about the faith and spiritual formation through which a person is formally incorporated in the Body of Christ, the Church.



Who is it for?
It is for those non-baptized ages 7 & older, who wish to become members of the Catholic Church.
It is also for those ages 7 & older, who were baptized in other Christian denominations who wish to enter the Catholic Church.
In addition, it is for those ages 7 & older, who were baptized Catholic but for some reason were neither prepared for nor received the other Sacraments of Initiation – Holy Eucharist and Confirmation.

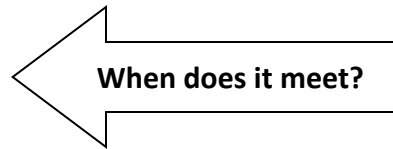


The R.C.I.A. is a process of formation and not a fixed-length program. Each person’s spiritual journey is different and the R.C.I.A. process respects the amount of time and effort needed to prepare a candidate to be fully initiated into the Church – usually one or two years depending on their previous experience of the Catholic faith and their ability to participate in the process.



- Period of Inquiry** – welcomes newcomers to ask questions or share their stories as they begin to learn more about the Church.
- Catechumenate** – is a time of serious and dedicated formation, often in a group setting with other newcomers (Catechumens) to the Catholic faith. Those already baptized are called “Candidates”.
- Period of Purification and Enlightenment** – which coincides with Lent is a period of intensive preparation and prayer for those who will be celebrating the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil that year.
- Mystagogy** – is the time after the newly initiated have been fully received into the Church. This period usually lasts from Easter through Pentecost.

Weekly sessions are held from September through June. These include a catechetical session and another shorter session of “Breaking open the Word of God” after the homily at Sunday Mass. These are led by a team of parishioners who accompany the candidate on their faith journey.



If you know someone who may be interested in becoming a Catholic or who has not received their Communion or Confirmation, encourage them to contact the parish office for further information (860-347-4441). You may also inquire to become a member of the “R.C.I.A. Team” which is a group of parishioners who perform diverse ministries to assist the catechumens and candidates on their spiritual journey.

I am interested in finding out more about the R.C.I.A. – please contact me

Name _____

Tel # _____

Best day/time to call _____

There will be an Informational Meeting **Wednesday, September 23 at 7 PM** at the St. Pius Faith Formation Center (upper parking lot). All are welcome! Hope to see you there.