

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER WHO WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR CATHOLIC FAITH?

Why not share the good news of faith that you celebrate and invite them to come and learn more about our faith through our parish's RCIA process?

What is RCIA? RCIA or Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a process designed to help those who are not Catholic (or who never received their sacraments) to learn more about our Catholic faith. For those who feel called by God to become Catholic, the process guides them with prayer, ritual and study, and prepares them to be received into the fullness of the church at the Easter Vigil.

How can you help someone you know who is considering becoming Catholic?

- ***Pray for that person!*** We know that God calls all of us in unique ways and that He is already inviting each of us into a relationship with Him so pray that your friend or family member will respond to God's call.
- ***Be open about and proud of your faith!*** When others ask you about your faith, you do not need to be defensive even if you do not know all the answers. Often people ask because they can tell that your faith makes a difference in your life. Feel free to share what makes you feel good about being Catholic.
- ***Invite the person to attend Mass with you!*** There is an ancient saying in the Church that we pray what we believe. Bringing someone to Mass can help that person experience what we believe in a way that is beyond words.

Catechumen & Candidate... What's the difference? A *Catechumen* is someone who has never been baptized in any faith but has decided they would like to enter into the process of becoming Catholic. The RCIA process for them will be more intensive because they don't just need to come to know about the Catholic Church they also need to come into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. Their weekly sessions will include Scripture reflection as well as learning about specific beliefs and teachings of the Catholics Church

A *Candidate* is someone who has been baptized in another Christian church or in our own faith. The Catholic Church recognizes that the grace of the sacrament of Baptism is validly celebrated for other Christians as well and presumes that a candidate already has a relationship with Jesus. The preparation process for Candidates can vary depending upon their circumstances and the depth of their relationship with Jesus and their prior knowledge and exposure to Church teaching.

How long will it take? For most people the RCIA process lasts about a year with follow up sessions. Because this is a conversion process that happens on God's timeline there can be exceptions depending upon a person's circumstances. For example some candidates need a shorter time of preparation and some catechumens feel they need a longer process.

For more information, call the parish office or Deacon Tony