

## **WHAT IS RCIA?**

### **HOW DO ADULTS BECOME CATHOLIC?**

We are called to evangelize by our baptism. Jesus told his followers, "The harvest is rich, but the workers are few." Are you called to help Jesus with this harvest? Do you know someone who has shown an interest in the Catholic Church? If so please encourage them to inquire about RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) at St. Edward's.

Q: How do adults become Catholic?

A: Through the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process designed for adults who, after hearing the mystery of Christ proclaimed, freely seek the living God, and desire to enter the way of faith and conversion as the Holy Spirit opens their hearts.

Q: Who is RCIA for?

A: The process is for adults and older teens who:

- are not baptized and seek to be welcomed into the Catholic Church and its way of life and faith in Jesus Christ through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist;
- were baptized in another Christian denomination and now seek full communion with the Catholic Church through the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.
- were baptized Catholic but who have not been instructed about the faith and now desire to complete their initiation through the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.

The RCIA is a gradual process that takes place within the community of the faithful. The process includes reflection on a person's individual faith journey and is structured so as to allow time for a person's questions about the Christian faith and the Catholic way of life. It is a spiritual journey, marked by celebrations (or Rites) during Mass and witnessed by the faith community. These rites mark the participants progress as they reach points of their deepening faith on the way to full initiation into the Catholic Church. For most people, the process involves a commitment from the Fall through the Easter Season of the next Spring. While the RCIA is a process centered on experiencing God in community, we also work to meet individual needs. If, at any time, a person is not ready to take the next step, that is respected.