**Rite of**

**Christian**

Initiation of

**Adults**

**The Process Has Four Phases**

##### ***INQUIRY ~***

A time for questioning, wondering, and storytelling; a time of introduction to the stories of the Catholic community; a period of formation, of coming to an initial awareness of God’s saving presence in your life, a time to discern your readiness to embrace the way of life of Jesus Christ. This period lasts as long as you need, respecting your individual journey of faith. When you are ready, you will participate in a special ritual called the Rite of Acceptance when you will publicly declare your intention to continue your journey toward full initiation in the Catholic Church. The community, in turn, accepts you, offering support and witness durng the journey.

###### ***CATECHUMENATE* ~**

A prolonged period of formation in the Christian life, it is a time to delve more deeply into the doctrine and rituals of the Church and to study the Sunday Scriptures. Supported by sponsors, the catechumenate team, the whole of the Christian community, you will be nourished and purified by celebrations and rituals that will help you in your decision to answer the call of God. The end of this period is marked by the Rites of Sending and Election. The local community officially sends you to be recognized by the Bishop. This is a significant turning point in the process. It celebrates the transition in the life of the one who is seeking to the one who is ready to stand firm in commitment.

### ***PURIFICATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT ~***

#### A short but intense time of preparation for both you and the community that occurs during Lent. You are prepared for reception of the Easter sacraments through prayer and penance and the community is challenged to enter more deeply into Lent through your witness. During this period there are certain rites that help bring about this purification and enlightenment: scrutinies, presentations of the Creed and Lord’s Prayer; as well as the preparation rites for initiation.

#### ***MYSTAGOGY* ~**

#### Sacramental initiation does not end at the Easter sacraments! The RCIA provides the final period, the period of reflection on the mysteries of the Christian journey. The neophytes, along with the community, reflect together on the celebration of the Easter mysteries and begin the process of making it a full and active part of life. You will continue to gather weekly until Pentecost. Mystagogy is the final period of initiation process, but the beginning of the responsibility of discipleship.

All are welcome in RCIA!