

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

A Pilgrimage of Faith to Encounter Jesus



Come and See!

*We invite you to participate in
Nativity's RCIA program, beginning
Monday, September 18, 2023, 7:00 pm,
in the Fr. Ready Room.*

RCIA is the journey of faith whereby new disciples of Jesus Christ are formed as they enter into full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil.

Nativity's RCIA program involves teaching, prayer, group discussion and special events to prepare those seeking to enter the Church through an encounter with Jesus.

RCIA is for those:

- Who have not been baptized
- Christians baptized in another faith desiring full communion with the Church
- Baptized Catholics who have not received catechesis for the other Sacraments of Initiation
- Wanting to know more about the faith

Sample RCIA Topics

*Is Jesus calling you into a deeper relationship?
Can I confess my sins directly to God?
Why is Mary the Mother of God?
What are the gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit?*

Frequently Asked Questions...

When does Nativity's RCIA program start?

7 pm Monday classes begin September 18, 2023 in the Fr. Ready Room, until Pentecost Sunday 2024. There will be special Rites on two Sundays, in early December 2022 and late February 2023. During Lent at the Sunday 9 am Mass, there will be three "breakout sessions" for priestly blessing and study.

When do I become initiated into (come into full communion with) the Catholic Church?

At the Easter Vigil Mass, Saturday, March 30, 2024.

What if I'm uncertain or need more time?

You may extend or discontinue your journey at any time. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you.

How do I know if God is calling me to discipleship in the Catholic Church?

Come and see! RCIA is a journey of faith to examine the beliefs and teachings of the Catholic Church, but it is also about conversion, deepening one's faith and being disciples of Jesus.

Will I need a sponsor?

You will choose a sponsor, a practicing Catholic, to join you on your journey. Sponsors may include spouses, siblings and children, but not parents. We can also help you find a sponsor.

What do I need to bring? What's expected of me?

Bring an open heart and mind, and a journal for notes. Study and other materials will be provided.

How do I get started?

Call the Parish Office at 703-455-2400, **or** speak with Father Bob Cilinski, **or** email Linda Loffredo at lindaloffredo@gmail.com, **and/or** attend the September 18, 2023 Welcome Class.



6400 Nativity Lane, Burke, Virginia 22015
Phone: (703) 455-2400 Fax: (703) 455-6832
<https://nativityburke.org/rcia/>

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS 2023-24

*RCIA—A faith journey towards
a deeper personal relationship
with Jesus Christ through full
communion with the Catholic
Church leading to discipleship*



Church of the Nativity

Burke, Virginia
(703) 455-2400 www.nativityburke.org



RCIA is the journey whereby the faithful come into full communion with the Catholic Church and become disciples of Jesus Christ.

RCIA is a communal process of faith formation and conversion punctuated by liturgical rites to aid and assist inquirers as they journey towards full communion with the Catholic Church. At the Church of the Nativity, the RCIA process is completed over nine months, beginning in September and concluding Pentecost Sunday.

This period of faith and spiritual formation is marked by teaching and study, prayer, liturgical rites at Mass and special events. RCIA participants, known as catechumens (not baptized) or candidates (baptized), undergo a process of conversion as they study the Gospel, profess faith in Jesus, learn the teachings of the Catholic Church, and receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.

At Nativity, the RCIA program is led by Father Bob Cilinski and the RCIA Team, coordinated by Linda Loffredo, which is a group of parishioners who serve as catechists and facilitators.

Catechesis aims at putting “people ... in communion ... with Jesus Christ: only he can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church, #426, quoting Council of Trent, #5

RCIA's Four Stages

The RCIA journey consists of four stages, with liturgical rites between each stage.

Pre-Catechumenate or Inquiry Stage

Inquirers learn introductory information about the Catholic Church, engage in faith sharing and obtain answers to their questions about the Catholic faith.

Catechumenate Stage

This stage commences with the **Rite of Acceptance** as inquirers make a commitment to continuing their RCIA journey. The formation of “catechumens” includes in depth teachings of the Church; weekly worship; study of the Sacraments; and participation in the Church’s mission and community life.

Purification and Enlightenment Stage

This third stage, coinciding with Lent and commencing with the **Rite of Election**, involves a period of intensive preparation to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the **Easter Vigil**, through prayer, fasting, almsgiving and periods of reflection.

Mystagogy Stage

In this final stage, extending from **Easter** to **Pentecost**, new Catholics deepen their understanding of their faith and reflect on their experience of becoming Catholic and its affect on their life at home, at work and in the community as they commence an ever-deepening relationship with Jesus over a lifetime. This last phase concludes with a **Rite of Commissioning** on Pentecost Sunday.

The RCIA Setting

The RCIA setting is a communal process designed to assist catechumens and candidates in their faith journeys.

Class Setting

The class setting is informal and relaxed. The RCIA team has been called to guide your pilgrimage of faith towards full communion in the Catholic Church. They make this journey with you along with your sponsor. The class presentations will address the fundamentals of our living faith, including, scripture, Sacred Tradition, Church teachings and the sacraments. While there are no required homework and tests, you will be asked to make a commitment of time and effort.

Participation, Prayer & Worship

Integral to the presentations by the RCIA team is your participation and faith sharing, as well as time spent in prayer and worshipping God together.

Lenten Service Project

There will be a Lenten service project to live out the fullness of Jesus’ message of love as we show compassion to others.

This is your time and your journey to a closer relationship with God. The Nativity RCIA team along with your sponsor are privileged to accompany you on your faith journey!