

St. Mary's Catholic Church
The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (The RCIA)
Course Outline

RCIA TEAM:

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Class Location: Room #6
Day/Time Held: Wednesday 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Course Materials:
Journey of Faith Inquiry Handouts, Catechumenate Handouts, Lent Handouts, Mystagogy Handouts, Bible, and the Catechism of the Catholic Faith

Participants must read the materials prior the class session and be ready for discussion.

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COURSE OUTLINE

The Period of Inquiry and Pre Catechumenate [Paragraphs 36 –40] This is a time, of no fixed structure, for inquiry and introduction to Gospel values, an opportunity for the beginnings of faith. This is the time for inquiry to ask questions and form relationships with one another and their catechist.

FIRST STEP: ACCEPTANCE INTO THE ORDER OF CATECHUMENS [Paragraphs 41 –47]

This is the liturgical rite, usually celebrated on some annual date or dates, marking the beginning of the catechumenate proper, as the candidates express and the Church accepts their intention to respond to God's call to follow the way of Christ.

The Period of the Catechumenate – This period is the time, in duration corresponding to the progress of the individual for the nurturing and growth of the catechumens' faith and conversion to God; celebrations of the word and prayers of exorcism and blessing are meant to assist the process.

SEOND STEP: ELECTION OR ENROLLMENT OR NAMES [Paragraphs 118 –128]

This is the liturgical rite, usually celebrated on the First Sunday of Lent, by which the Church formally ratifies the catechumens, now the elect; express the will to receive these sacraments.

The Period of Purification and Enlightenment [Paragraphs 138 -149] – This is the time immediately preceding the elects' initiation, usually the Lenten season preceding the celebration of this initiation at the Easter Vigil; it is a time of reflection, intensely centered on conversation, marked by celebration of the scrutinies and presentations and of the preparation rites on Holy Saturday.

THIRD STEP: CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

This is the liturgical rite, usually integrated into the Easter Vigil, by which the elect are initiated through Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist.

The Period of Postbaptismal Catechesis or Mystagogy – This is the rite, usually the Easter season, following the celebration of initiation, during which the newly initiated experience being fully a part of the Christian community by means of pertinent catechesis and particularly by participation with all the faithfully in the Sunday Eucharistic celebration.

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INQUIRY OR PRE CATECHUMEN LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this session, Inquiries or Pre Catechumens will have general knowledge and a fundamental understanding of:

- The nature of inquiry and Pre Catechumen process (**see course outline**)
- What Catholics believe?
- The Meaning of the Mass?
- The Bible and how do Catholics Interpret the Bible?
- The Saints and Mary
- Places in the Catholic Church
- Who's Who in the Church
- Catholics and Prayer/Catholics Practices
- Catholics and Church

RITE OF ACCEPTANCE AND CANDIDATES LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this session, Catechumens and Candidates will have general knowledge and a fundamental understanding of:

- The nature of Catechumen process (**see course outline**)
- The Sacraments, Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist,
- The Sacraments of Penance, Reconciliation, and Anointing of the Sick
- The Sacraments of Marriage and Holy Orders
- The People of God
- Who is Jesus Christ?
- The Early Church and History of the Church

- Christian Moral Living and Social Justice
- The Consistent Life Ethic and the Dignity of Life

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THE RITE OF ELECTION AND THE PURIFICATION OF ENLIGHTENMENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this session, Catechumens and Candidates will have general knowledge and a fundamental understanding of:

- The nature of The Catechumens and the Candidates process (**see course outline**)
- What is Lent
- Saying Yes to Jesus
- Take a Look
- The Nicene Creed
- The Way of the Cross
- The Lord's Prayer
- The Meaning of Holy Week
- Catechumenate Retreat Day

THE MYSTAGOGY LEARNING OUTCOMES
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Upon completion of this session, Catechumens and Candidates will have general knowledge and a fundamental understanding of:

- The nature of the neophytes process (**see course outline**)
- Conversion A Lifelong Process
- The Laity – Called to Build God's Kingdom
- Your Special Gifts
- Family Life
- Your Prayer Life
- Discernment

- Holiness
- Evangelization

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SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES:

- Waking Up Catholic - RCIA Resources
- The Association for Catechumenal Ministry
- The Blog That's All About RCIA
- The North American Forum on the Catechumenate
- TeamRCIA
- Travelling the Path to Catholicism by Fr. William P. Saunders, Arlington Catholic Herald
- Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy

St. Mary's RCIA Library –Work Room

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults – Study Edition

Journey of Faith – Expanded Edition

[^] Anne Marie Mongoven. *The Prophetic Spirit of Catechesis: How We Share the Fire in Our Hearts*. p. 68. [ISBN 0809139227](#).

- [^] Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, Study Edition, Chicago, 1988. ISBN 0-9304-94-9.
- [The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Resource Site](#)

