

How Do I Become Catholic?

No matter which Catholic Church you approach, if you're interested in learning more about becoming Catholic, they'll talk to you about the RCIA, the Rite of the Christian Initiation for Adults. RCIA is a conversion process where adults who are un-baptized, or adults who were baptized in different Christian denominations, are fully initiated into the Catholic faith. The RCIA process allows adults to be immersed in Catholicism through weekly Mass attendance, involvement in the parish, regular reflection on the Scriptures, learning about the Church and her teachings, learning how to pray, and becoming a follower of Jesus.

Who is RCIA for?

Any non-Catholic adult who is at any stage of interest with the Catholic faith. Whether you've been thinking about becoming Catholic for two weeks or two decades, we're here to guide you through your own discernment about how God is calling at this time in your life.

RCIA offers a process of welcoming and preparing adults who are:

- seeking Baptism in the Catholic Church;
- interested in becoming Catholic from another Christian tradition; or
- interested in learning more about the Catholic faith and traditions

When Can I Start RCIA?

At St. John Neumann we work with people year-round. Whenever you feel a tug to contact us, we're here to talk with you at any stage of your consideration of the Catholic faith.

What's the First Stage?

The very first stage in the formal RCIA process is called, fittingly, Inquiry. It's an opportunity to ask any questions about God, the Catholic Church, religion, or anything else faith-related. Through a series of conversations we'll also ask some questions of you to get a better understanding of where you've been, where you are now, and how you see yourself on the journey ahead.

Additionally, you can begin to join us for our weekly small group sessions on Sundays after the 9AM Mass. These gatherings give you a chance to form community with others on the journey and learn more about what it is like to follow Jesus and be part of His Church.

What Happens After Inquiry?

After inquiry, and a mutual discernment to continue, you'll go through a Rite where you are introduced to the parish community and state your desire to continue in this process. This only takes place when you're ready and comfortable, which can be three weeks, three months, or three years after our initial conversations. After the Rite, you will continue with weekly sessions where you'll spend time learning about the faith before being fully initiated at the Easter Vigil. We'll explain it all as we go along and give you and your Sponsor a "map" of the RCIA journey.

What is an RCIA Sponsor?

Sponsors are faith companions to someone who is considering becoming a member of the Catholic Church. Sponsors are key people in the initiation process. They share their lives of faith with those journeying to become one with us at the Eucharistic table. Sponsors are not

experts or theologians, but they do share one characteristic: a willingness to share themselves and their faith so that others can enter fully into the life of our community.

Sponsors are Confirmed Catholics, in good standing, who are participants in the life and worship of their parish. They have a willingness to share their faith with someone exploring Catholicism and are good listeners who are prayerful and responsive to Jesus' call on their lives. Many people in our parish are willing to be sponsors for those exploring Catholicism and we will work with you to find a good match if you do not have a Catholic friend in mind.

What should I do if I'm interested?

Fill out the form on our website, or call our parish office at 717-569-8531, or contact our RCIA Coordinator, Barbara Goss, at 717-725-0832 or bgosshome@gmail.com.