

Christian Initiation:

- ◆ A faith journey
- ◆ An on-going process
- ◆ Turning, and returning to God
- ◆ Continuing as long as we live
- ◆ A new way of life

“Finally, my brothers, your thoughts should be wholly directed to all that is true, all that deserves respect, all that is honest, pure, admirable, decent, virtuous, or worthy of praise.”

- Philippians 4: 8



Clustered Parishes of

SS. Peter & Paul
434 High Street
Ionia, MI 48846
616-527-3610

and

St. Edward
531 Jordan Lake Street
Lake Odessa, MI 48849
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Clustered Parishes of

SS. Peter & Paul
and
St. Edward

RITE OF
CHRISTIAN
INITIATION
OF ADULTS

Have you ever wondered what Catholics believe, or how a person joins the Catholic Church?

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

What is RCIA?

The RCIA is the process by which men and women become members of the Catholic Church. The process is ongoing, which means people begin whenever the Spirit moves them to inquire. It is a time of prayer, learning, and breaking open the Word of God to discern if the Catholic Church is where you are called to be.

The RCIA takes place within the context of the parish community, and after a suitable period of formation, culminates in the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

Formation in the Catholic faith includes:

- Scripture: the stories of God's people and the mission of Jesus Christ
- Teaching: What Catholics believe
- Prayer: How we communicate with God
- Liturgy: How the community worships
- Mission: How we live out what we believe

Who is RCIA for?

The process of Christian Initiation is for adults who:

- want to learn more about the Catholic Church
- attend the Catholic Church with a spouse or loved one, and are not sure about joining, but are open to exploring the question.
- are not baptized and want to become Catholic Christians through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.
- are baptized Christians (either Catholic or of another faith tradition) who seek full initiation in the Roman Catholic Church through the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.

How does it work?

God calls and we respond. With the process of Christian Initiation, men and women at all stages of the faith journey come together in a relaxed and informal atmosphere to learn more about the Catholic Church.

Our weekly meetings are held in the parish office on a designated weekday evening. Volunteer catechists lead sessions regarding Catholic beliefs and practices.

Throughout the course of the RCIA there are special times of prayer known as *rites*, when participants receive the prayers, blessing, and support of the larger parish community as they transition from one phase to another within the process. Most new Catholics are received into the Church at the Easter Vigil, following a year or more of formal study.

What is , the first step?

Contact our Pastoral Minister, Toni McKay at Saints Peter & Paul Parish to learn more about the initiation process. She can be reached at the parish office, 616-527-3610 or via e-mail at tmckay@ssppcatholic.com.

OR

Complete the form below and return to the parish office, or place in the collection basket at Mass.

May God bless you on your journey!

____ I am interested in learning more about the Catholic Church.

____ I know someone interested in the Catholic Church.

Name and Phone # of person:

____ I am interested in helping with the RCIA as a: ____ Sponsor

____ Catechist

____ Other _____

Your Name _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

Email _____