

RCIA/Becoming Catholic

Frequently Asked Questions

What does RCIA stand for?

RCIA stands for Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. It is a learning and loving process in which people are welcomed into the Catholic Faith. Those participating have the opportunity to ask questions about the Church and to hear about the message of Jesus the Christ and how it is lived out in the Catholic Church. All are welcome, and there is no obligation to make a commitment to become Catholic.

Are you called to be Catholic?

There are lots of reasons why people choose to become Catholic. Maybe you are married to someone who is Catholic and are ready to further explore this faith. Maybe you have friends or relatives who were married in the Catholic Church. Maybe you attended a wedding or funeral and were moved by that experience and now want to learn more. Maybe you know or admire someone who is Catholic and you want to explore the faith more deeply.



[For more information, please contact David Rivers, \(320\) 235-0118](#)
[or DavidRivers@OurLivingWater.org.](mailto:DavidRivers@OurLivingWater.org)

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How do I know if the RCIA process is for me?

The RCIA process is designed for these groups of people:

- Those who have never been baptized
- Those who were baptized in another Christian tradition who now wish enter into full communion with the Catholic Church
- Those who were baptized Catholic but have not received the other Sacraments of Initiation (First Communion and/or Confirmation)
- Those who have been worshipping with us, but never officially took the step to become Catholic

How long does the RCIA process take?

The RCIA process in our Area Faith Community of Jesus Our Living Water begins around the middle of September and concludes the following Spring after Easter. We meet on Sunday mornings beginning at 8:30 am. We use faith-sharing material called "Journey of Faith" as a guide. There is no cost for participating in the RCIA process. We ask only that you bring a sincere desire to grow and to learn. Following this session all are invited to attend Mass.



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I'm not much of a student. Is this a "Class?"

The RCIA process should not be considered a "class." We want you to discover God on a personal level. *There are no tests and no grades.* Each week, we will present a topic for general discussion by the candidates and sponsors. The goal is conversion through a change of heart and a deepening of your relationship with Christ.

What Am I Expected to Know?

Your faith journey is a time of formation and conversion. Faith formation involves learning about the faith, practices, and doctrines, but we do not stop there. It is also about conversion. Conversion is a time for you to grow in awareness of your relationship with God. Bring an open heart and mind. You will learn to live out your call to be a disciple of Jesus the Christ.



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What if I Get Started and Decide This Isn't For Me?

Faith in God and the decision to pursue full participation in the Catholic Church are personal choices that must be made in an atmosphere of complete freedom. We will try our best to help you understand what it means to be a Catholic Christian. We sincerely believe that you must be allowed to use God's gift of conscience and free will without feeling any pressure.



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