

RCIA FAQs

Catholic Instruction Set to Begin: Are you interested in learning more about the Catholic faith? Are you curious about what Catholics believe and why? Are you considering joining a church? Are you a Catholic who has been away from the Church for a while? Were you baptized Catholic but never participated in the Sacrament of Confirmation? Instructional classes are held at St Mary each Wednesday 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Atrium, located in the Berkley Center north of and attached to the church. The classes begin around Labor Day (exact start date varies each year) and continue through Easter. For more information please contact Mike (email: mik18@att.net, TN: 614-323-6715) or Maureen (email: mkeebaugh@att.net, TN: 614-323-7293) Keebaugh.

Q: *You have mentioned that anyone is welcome to attend any R.C.I.A. session. Could you highlight the upcoming schedule?* **A:** It is our hope that more than just converts show up to the sessions, that it can be a time of faith formation for all. Our conversion never ends until we are joined with God in Heaven. We never stop growing in our knowledge of the faith. We encourage everyone in the parish to join us at any or all of the upcoming sessions. Classes will begin around Labor Day and continue through Easter. We have some important and interesting topics to discuss including: "Jesus: Who do you say that I am?", "Bible Basics", "Revelation, Scripture and Tradition", "Prayer", "The History of the Church", "The Eucharist", "The Mass Explained", "The Sacraments" and many others with speakers from throughout the diocese. Each topic will be announced in the bulletin prior to class and an outline of topics will be available to all parishioners. Additionally, we are going to have a fall retreat that includes a walk-through of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. This would be a great time for everyone to learn about the Liturgy and discover "why" we do what we do at Mass.

Q: *How many will be attending the upcoming classes?*

A: Many have already inquired. Through prayer and parish evangelization we're hopeful that we can have 20 new converts this year! We're also hopeful that many wives and husbands who are married to someone who's Catholic would consider joining us. We encourage each candidate and catechumen to identify their own sponsor from among their Catholic friends and family. If you don't know a potential sponsor, don't let that hold you back. We will help you with that detail.

Q: *How can we support those candidates who wish to enter the Catholic Church?*

A: There are many ways to support those taking this faith journey. The first is to keep them in your prayers. If you are approached by a candidate to be their sponsor, please consider this act of stewardship. It is a learning experience for both candidates and sponsors. Come and hear the speakers and topics yourself. Lastly, participate actively in the weekly Mass and during the Easter Triduum.

Q: *How can we support the R.C.I.A. program beyond our prayers?*

Prayer, of course, is huge and is much needed. We encourage everyone to pray for the candidates, catechumens, and sponsors and for their catechyses. We also ask that you pray for their family and friends. Often, the family and friends are confused by their decision. Let us pray for their conversion. We also ask two things: invite others to consider being a part of R.C.I.A and help us attract others to the Church by being a faithful and good Catholic. Holiness is contagious and the best witness is a life well lived.

Q: *Is there any obligation to become Catholic once you start the process?*

A: There is absolutely no obligation. In fact, we hope many people come just to find out more about what Catholics believe. There is no harm in hearing what the Church teaches and then make a decision. Many have gone through RCIA and converted to the Catholic Church. Many of them never in a million years thought they would become Catholic, but they read, listened and investigated and the rest is history. There are many misconceptions taught about what Catholics believe, we encourage all to come and find out the truth for themselves.

If you have any question please contact Mike (mjk18@att.net, 614-323-6715) or Maureen Keebaugh (mkeebaugh@att.net, 614-323-7293)