

NOTES

For more information, please contact
Jorge Medina, Adult Faith Formation Office,
407-695-3262 ext. 105
Email: aff@saintaugustinecc.org
I look forward to talking with you!

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HEARING THE CALL OF CHRIST



T H E R E I G N O F G O D I S A T H A N D

L O R D , Y O U S H O W U S T H E P A T H O F L I F E

2018- 2019

JOURNEY OF FAITH

ST. AUGUSTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

CASSELBERRY, FLORIDA

WELCOME INTO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

The RCIA Process

INTRODUCTION

The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Process is designed for adults who, hearing the Call of Christ, consciously and freely seek the living God and enter the way of faith and conversion as the Holy Spirit opens their hearts. By God's help, this process hopes to help strengthen the person seeking full communion with the Catholic Church in knowledge and spirituality of the Catholic Faith. RCIA is suited to a spiritual journey of adults that varies according to the many forms of God's grace, the free cooperation of the individuals, the action of the Church, and the circumstances of time and place. The usual process includes: Inquiry Period, Period of the Catechumenate, Period of Purification & Enlightenment, Easter Vigil, and Mystagogy.

The Process...The Inquiry Period

The inquiry period provides a general introduction to the Catholic Faith and is made up of several informational sessions that usually include basic presentations on Catholicism, explanations of Scripture, testimonies, etc. This period is set aside for those interested to inquire more about the Catholic Church. It is also a time set aside so that the genuine will to follow Christ and seek full communion with the Catholic Church may mature. Sometime in November, those who wish to continue in the process will take part in the **Rite of Acceptance** where those who have not received Christian baptism will be accepted as catechumens while those who have received Christian baptism will be accepted as **candidates**.

TOPICS

- Explanation of the RCIA process
- What it means to be a Catholic
- Testimonials from converts
- An Introduction to the Catholic Liturgy

Period of the Catechumenate

After the rite of acceptance, the catechumen or candidate enters a period on instruction in the teachings of the Catholic Church.

This period includes study of the doctrines (usually following the *Apostle's Creed*) and the moral teaching so the Church along with liturgical and spiritual formation. On the First Sunday of Lent, those wishing to continue will take part in the **Rite of Election** at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe with the Most

Reverend John Noonan, Bishop of the Orlando Diocese. By this rite, the Church formally ratifies the catechumens' and candidate's readiness for the sacrament of initiation.

Period of Purification & Enlightenment

This time during Lent is a time of reflection intensely focused on conversion. It includes sessions centering on spiritual and liturgical development. Also included is more immediate preparation for reception into full communion with the Catholic Church.

Scrutiny Sessions

From the first to the final scrutiny the elect should progress in their perception of sin and their desire for salvation.

1 st Scrutiny:	March 24, 2019
2 nd Scrutiny:	March 31, 2019
3 rd Scrutiny:	April 7, 2019

All scrutiny sessions will take place after the 10:30 am Mass dismissal (following of the Word) until 12:30 p.m.

Easter Vigil

The **Easter Vigil** (Holy Saturday evening) marks the celebration of the rites of initiation. It is here that those who have been preparing are welcomed to the Roman Catholic Church.

Mystagogy

This is a time in the Easter season that includes a few catechetical sessions and celebrations. The neophytes continue to gather weekly, supported by the community and their godparents, until Pentecost. Mystagogy is the final period of the initiation process, but the beginning of the responsibility of discipleship.

PRESENTER

Jorge Medina, and members of the past RCIA group, who are now in full communion with the Catholic Church, will do the presenting.

Catechetical Sessions

Saint Augustine Catholic Church
(Good Council Room)

WELCOME/REGISTRATION/ORIENTATION

Saturday, September 8th, 2018
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY EVENING SESSIONS

Sep. 19, 2018 to Nov. 21, 2018
7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY MORNING SESSIONS

Nov. 25, 2018 to Apr. 7, 2019
Dismissal following of the Word at Sundays
10:30 a.m. Mass until 12:30 pm

WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY EVENING SESSIONS

April 24, 2019 to May 3, 2019
7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Topics Include

The Creed (God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Church and the final things), Sacred Scripture, Sacraments, Prayer and the Liturgy, and the Moral Teachings of the Catholic Church (emphasis on the Ten Commandments).

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

Rite of Acceptance

Sunday, November 25, 2018 - 10:30 a.m. Mass
(Dismissal following of the Word) until 12:30 pm

Rite of Sending

Sunday, March 3, 2019 - 10:30 a.m. Mass
(Dismissal following of the Word) until 12:30 pm

Rite of Election

Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary,
Queen of the Universe
Sunday, March 10, 2019, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Retreat #1

Saturday, April 13, 2019, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Easter Vigil

Saturday, April 20, 2019, 8:00 p.m.

Retreat #2

Saturday, May 4, 2019, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

What are the Sacraments of Initiation?

The Catechism has divided the seven sacraments into three categories: Initiation, Healing, and Service. The Sacrament of Christian Initiation lays the *foundation* of every Christian life. The faithful are born anew by **Baptism**, strengthened by the Sacrament of **Confirmation**, and receive in the **Eucharist** the food of eternal life. By means of these sacraments of Christian initiation, they thus receive in increasing measure the treasures of the divine life and advance toward the perfection of charity (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1212).

Is the Bible really God's Word?

God is the author of *Sacred Scripture*. The divinely revealed realities, which are contained and presented in the text of Sacred Scripture, have been written down under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (CCC 105). God inspired the human authors of the sacred books (CCC 106). The inspired books teach the truth (CCC 107). In Sacred Scripture God speaks to man in a human way (CCC 109).

What does "Catholic" mean?

The word "Catholic" means "universal," in the sense of "according to the totality" or "in keeping with the whole." The Church is Catholic in a double sense: First, the Church is Catholic because Christ is present in her. In her subsists the fullness of Christ's body united with its head; this implies that she receives from him "the fullness of the means of salvation" which he has willed" correct and complete confession of faith, full sacrament life, and ordained ministry in apostolic succession. The Church was, in the fundamental sense, Catholic on the day of Pentecost. Secondly, the Church is Catholic because she has been sent out by Christ on a mission to the whole of the human race (CCC 830, 831).