

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

“The rite of Christian Initiation is designed for adults who, after hearing the mystery of Christ proclaimed, consciously and freely seek the living God and enter the way of faith and conversion as the Holy Spirit opens their hearts.” (Ritual – Introduction par. #1)

The Rite is:

- *“A gradual process that takes place within the community of the faithful”* (par. #4).
- *A “reflecting on the value of the paschal mystery”* (par. #4).
- *“A spiritual journey of adults that varies according to the many forms of God's grace”* (par. #5).
- An invitation extended to adults from other faith traditions to discern initiation into the Roman Catholic Church.
- An experience of God's grace.
- Ultimately the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation (baptism, confirmation and eucharist), thus bringing the person to their *“full stature and to enable them to carry out the mission of the entire people of God in the Church and in the world”* (par. #1).

STEPS TOWARDS FULL INITIATION

Step One:

This is a period of inquiry on the part of the Candidate that flows from an initial call/conversion/wish to become a fully-initiated Roman Catholic. This step concludes with a ritual action accepting the Candidate into the order of catechumens – one who now **actively seeks** initiation.

Step Two:

As the journey of faith deepens a more intense period of preparation towards the Sacraments of Initiation ensues. There is no set time period for how long this period may last, however, this period concludes with a ritual action that names the person seeking initiation as a member of the Elect – one who **will be** initiated into the Roman Catholic Church.

Step Three:

This period ordinarily coincides with the liturgical season of Lent – a period of purification and enlightenment that concludes with the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil.

Step Four:

This period follows the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation, ordinarily lasting the fifty days of the Easter Season. *“It is a time for deepening the Christian experience, for spiritual growth, and for entering more fully into the life and unity of the community”* (par. #7).

WHAT ARE THE SESSIONS LIKE?

The sessions of preparation towards full initiation into the Roman Catholic Church are weekly, beginning in September and concluding on Pentecost. The actual sessions are informal discussions, combined with teachings of the Roman Catholic faith, and facilitated by a member of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults team. Each session also has time set aside for prayer and private reflection. The aim of each session is to provide a supportive atmosphere that will assist in the discernment process towards full initiation.

THE TEAM

The team which facilitates the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is comprised of catechists (teachers of the faith) and sponsors. The catechists primary responsibility is twofold: one, to ensure that the teachings of the faith are presented accurately and truthfully; and two, to assist spiritually those discerning full initiation. The sponsors serve as mentors for those discerning full initiation. Each person discerning full initiation will have an individual sponsor who will assist them along the journey of discovery towards understanding the call of God.

QUALIFICATIONS OF ONE SEEKING INITIATION

- A person open to the movement and call of God in their life.
- A person who freely chooses to become a fully initiated Roman Catholic.
- A person willing to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Roman Catholic faith.
- A person who seeks to deepen their spiritual life through both personal and communal prayer.
- A person free from any religious impediments.

HOW TO ENTER THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Simply speak to any member of the Parish Pastoral Team and they will assist you in your initial inquiry. The next step will include a one-on-one interview with a member of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults team in order to explain the process in greater detail and assess the readiness of the possible candidate.

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