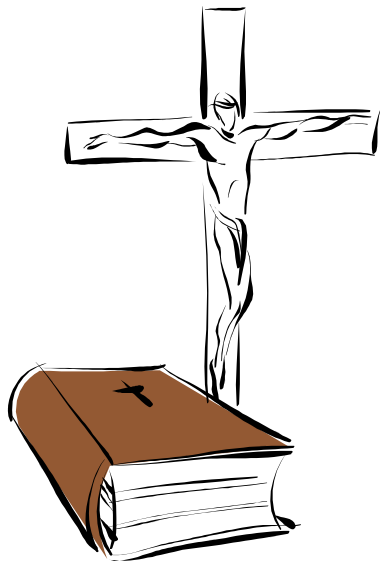


*As [John] watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed,
“Look, here is the Lamb of God!”
The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.*

When Jesus turned and saw them following, He said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.”

John 1:36-39a



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

St. Mary's Parish – Red Deer, Alberta

www.stmarysparishreddeer.com

403-347-3114 extension 4

Updated August 2022

What does R.C.I.A. mean?

RCIA is the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**.

It is **NOT** a program or a course but a **Process of Faith Formation**.

It is a **Spiritual Journey** that leads to full membership in the Catholic Church.

The process is broken into **four periods** that focus on the faith development of the individual:

Pre-Catechumenate or Inquiry Period

- ◆ A time to “Come and See” (John 1:39)
- ◆ A time to ask, “Why do Catholics...?”
- ◆ A time to become comfortable with the group
- ◆ A time to discern what one is called to do

Catechumenate Period

- ◆ A time to listen to and hear God’s Word
- ◆ A time to learn about Catholic tradition
- ◆ A time of prayer
- ◆ A time to discover how Catholic Christians are called to live their faith

Period of Purification and Enlightenment

- ◆ A time of prayer
- ◆ A time to acknowledge what needs to change in one’s life
- ◆ A time of spiritual and personal growth
- ◆ A time of preparation for receiving the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil

Period of Mystagogia

- ◆ A time to reflect on our “Easter Experience”
- ◆ A time to deepen our understanding of the mysteries of our faith
- ◆ A time to savor the sacramental life that we now share with our brothers and sisters in faith
- ◆ A time to discern which ministry one is being called to in order to become a full and active member of St. Mary’s faith community

How long does this journey or process take?

The RCIA journey is ongoing.

The length of the journey **depends solely upon each individual**. Adults who are ready are initiated into our faith community at the Easter Vigil. After Easter the “neophytes” and candidates continue to journey as Full Members of the Catholic Church.

Formal instruction continues so our new Catholics can have the opportunity to enrich their faith experience and decide how they want to be part of the community, usually until mid-June.

Who participates in this process?

RCIA is the process by which the community **passes on their faith** to those seeking to learn about God, Jesus, and the Church.

Members of St. Mary’s Parish accompany these people who are searching for meaning in their lives. These individuals are willing and eager to share their faith as catechists, sponsors, journey companions, prayer person/family or hospitality. They offer support by sharing their journey. **Spouses, fiancés, other family members and friends are encouraged to participate.**

Sponsor: As a Catechumen or Candidate, you will require a Sponsor. A Sponsor is a person that you know or is from the faith community who journeys with you. The Sponsor needs to be at least 16 years,

Ongoing training and support will be provided.

Contact Charmaine at 403- 347-3114 extension 4.

When does the group meet?

We meet on a regular basis. The length of the journey **depends solely upon each individual**. This is determined by interviews with the coordinator, the priest and/or members of the RCIA Team. Typically, once a week for 2 hours plus Sundays for about 1 year.

Who can tell me more?

Call the Parish Office at 403-347-3114 extension 4

charmaine.marcinek@rdcrs.ca or charmaine.marcinek@caedm.ca