



## **Stages in the RCIA process:**

### **1. Inquiry**

During this initial stage of RCIA, also known as the precatechumenate, individuals meet with our team to discuss their interest in the church. They can ask questions and are introduced to the teachings of the Catholic faith.

### **2. Catechumenate/Rite of Acceptance**

When a person has decided to join the Catholic Church, he or she begins the Catechumenate. This begins with the Rite of Acceptance, a rite held during a Sunday liturgy in Advent, in which they express their readiness to accept the Gospel and be received into the Catholic Church. During this stage the catechumens formally study Church teaching.

### **3. Purification & Enlightenment/Rite of Election**

This period takes place during Lent. Beginning with the Rite of Election on the First Sunday of Lent, catechumens and candidates begin a final preparation for initiation into the Catholic faith. During the Period of Purification, they also participate in several rites called Scrutinies during Sunday liturgies.

### **4. Initiation**

At the Easter Vigil, catechumens are baptized and confirmed; candidates are confirmed. Then catechumens and candidates (both having received the Sacraments of Initiation) take part in the Eucharistic celebration.

### **5. Mystagogy**

The word Mystagogy comes from Greek meaning "interpretation of mystery." During this final period of RCIA, the new Catholics (called neophytes) deepen their understanding of the paschal mystery and make it a part of their lives.

**Important Rites and Dates in the RCIA process**

Rite of Welcome/Rite of Acceptance – usually 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

Rite of Election – usually 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent

1<sup>st</sup> Scrutiny – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday's in Lent

2<sup>nd</sup> Scrutiny – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday's in Lent

3<sup>rd</sup> Scrutiny – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday's in Lent

Rehearsal for Vigil Mass – 10 am on Holy Saturday

Easter Vigil Mass – 8 pm

Pentecost Sunday – 50 days after Easter