



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

The **RCIA Process** is the church's welcoming to those who are not Catholic and wish to be. Four words help to describe RCIA:

Community, Journey, Prayer and Service.

Community

The initiation of adults is about the Church initiating new members into itself, and therefore it must take place in community. It is never a private process. The initiation of adults is the concern and business of all the baptized" (RCIA, #41). Although the RCIA involves many parishioners in various ministries (sponsors, catechists, prayers, etc.), everyone in St. Angela Merici's Community is responsible for ministering to those who are seeking to be part of the Roman Catholic tradition by the witness of their lives and by our hospitality, encouragement and prayerful support.



Journey

Journey. RCIA is first and foremost a faith journey process. The process of conversion takes time. For this reason there is nothing instant about RCIA. The commitment to gospel values and perspectives is a personal journey which is never accomplished by an educational program alone.

The catechumens gather with the Catholic community at the 9:30 AM Mass on Sundays for the first part of the Mass, during which, together, we hear the Scriptures, respond to them, and reflect on the

meaning of God's Word for us personally and as community through the homily. After the homily, the catechumens are dismissed, and with their Catechist (facilitator), continue a process of reflection and application of the Scriptures to their own lives. Their experience will be a gradual catechesis which will cover church doctrine, traditions, custom and practices which will be revealed through the Word of God.

Prayer

The RCIA community prays together during sessions and on retreats, and together learns about different forms and styles of individual and communal prayer. Prayer, both as individuals and as members of a worship community, is at the heart of the RCIA Process.



Service

Catechumens are encouraged to reflect on their gifts and talents and share them with the larger community. The service component will hopefully inspire candidates to put their faith into action and live a life committed to the values and actions of Jesus Christ.

For more information please contact:

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