

Thinking about becoming Catholic?

We call that process RCIA

St. Stephen Parish RCIA - Frequently Asked Questions

What is RCIA?

RCIA stands for the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**. This is the process by which the Catholic Church presents her teachings to a variety of people, most of whom are interested in joining the Church. It is a journey of conversion, intended for **unbaptized** adults and children over 7 years of age.

Baptized non-Catholic Christians will also receive instruction. However, they do not need to be baptized again, if they have been baptized with water in the words, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

How do I sign up for RCIA?

You may register for the RCIA program by contacting Jackie Gere, Director of Faith Formation, at the Parish Office. Her phone number is 989-799-2334.

What is the cost for RCIA?

There is no cost to you to go through the RCIA process.

If I enroll in RCIA am I committed to becoming Catholic?

No, you may withdraw from the program at any time.

I was told I need a sponsor who is a baptized and confirmed Catholic and is in good standing in the Catholic Church and who will attend the classes with me. What if I don't know anyone who could do that?

Don't worry about it. We have people who will volunteer to fulfill that role.

I am getting married. Will I be able to complete the RCIA by then?

Maybe yes, and maybe no. The faith journey to become a Catholic takes time and energy. The timeline of a faith journey does not always coincide with that of a wedding.

If you are engaged, the deepening of your relationship with your fiancé and the preparation for your wedding take time. The deepening of your relationship with the Church community and the preparation for your baptism or full membership in that community also take time. It may or may not be possible for both journeys to arrive at a particular calendar date at the same time. Let's talk and see where we go from there.

What am I expected to know before I can become Catholic?

Your faith journey is a time of formation that is much more than education. Faith formation is a time for you to grow in the awareness of your relationship with Christ, with God, and with the Catholic Church. There are no tests; there are no grades. In fact, when classes are finished, you are really just beginning.

Who can I call for more information or clarification?

You may call Jackie Gere at 989-799-2334 with questions. She is looking forward to hearing from you.