

**What if I'm not sure
if I want to become a
Catholic?**

That's fine! The RCIA begins with a period of Inquiry Sessions. At the end of this period, you decide if you are interested in learning more. Even if you decide to continue, **there is no final commitment to join the Church until much later in the process.**

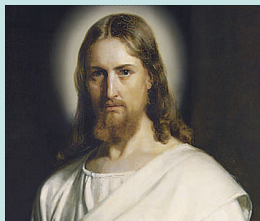
When and Where do We Meet?

St. Patrick's RCIA process typically runs from early September through Easter up to Pentecost (May). Participants gather from 7:00 - 9:00p.m. on Wednesday evenings on the appointed dates. Meetings are usually held in the Ministry Center youth room.



What is the First Step?

If you have felt the first stirrings of interest in discovering who Jesus is and what it means to be a Christian, please follow the directions on the "Contact Information Form" contained in this brochure. All inquiries are held in full confidence.



INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE?

Contact Information

Name:

Address:

City: _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: Home -

Work -

Email:

Return this form to:

**St. Patrick Catholic Church
c/o Brett Swearingen
991 S. Waukegan Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045**

Or call: (847) 234-1401

Or Email:

bswearingen@stpatrick-lakeforest.org



**St. Patrick
Catholic
Church
Lake Forest, IL**

WELCOME!

**The door is open
to those who are
searching.**



**RITE OF
CHRISTIAN
INITIATION OF
ADULTS**

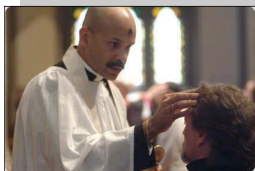
HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT?

EVER WONDER WHAT YOUR PURPOSE IN LIFE IS?

The Catholic Church is always ready to welcome those who wish to become a part of its faith community. The faith community of St. Patrick's Catholic Church strives to reach out to anyone interested in exploring the possibility of becoming Catholic. This is always done in a manner where there is no pressure or obligation placed on a person to actually becoming Catholic. Anyone seeking answers to their faith life can enter into a process where they, along with many others, search for God in a new and more meaningful way.

Come join us, if . . .

- you seek direction for your life.
- you or someone you know is hungering for a sense of belonging to God and a faith community.
- you or someone you know is thirsting for a deeper experience of the heart when it comes to God and the faith community.
- you seek a new and better understanding of the Catholic faith.
- you would like to be initiated into the Catholic Church.



Consider Joining the R.C.I.A.

"The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults"

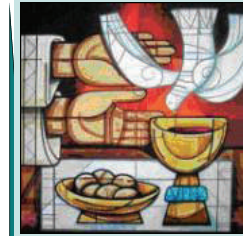
The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the entry point for many into our faith community and harkens back to the very beginning of the Church. In the first several centuries C.E., new believers entered into a



type of apprenticeship for a length of at least one year. It is our goal, that much like those early apprentices, the RCIA process will cause us to grow as community and be transformed by the person of Jesus Christ.

WHY RCIA?

There are many reasons that people enter the RCIA. It makes no difference whether you have been raised in another denomination, have no church affiliation and experience or you simply been away from the faith for the last 20 years and would like to come back to complete the Sacraments of Initiation. Whatever the case, you are welcome here and quite frankly, we would praise God for your presence! As we build community through our RCIA sessions, it becomes clear that we all have had our times of doubts, fear and frustration. Many have even lived lives apart from God's plan, but certainly not apart from his mercy. The RCIA is a time to come together and examine our lives in light of the Gospel and embrace a fuller relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ.



Stages of the RCIA

Period of Inquiry or Precatechumenate -

this is the initial phase of one's faith journey. It is a time for hearing the Gospel and an opportunity to learn about the Catholic Church and ask questions.

Period of the Catechumenate - is the time when much of the catechesis (teaching) takes place. It is a time when an individual is nurtured in the growth of faith and conversion to God through the celebration of the Word, prayers and continued understanding of the Catholic faith.

Period of Purification and Enlightenment -

When catechumens are deemed ready for Christian initiation, they are formally called to the Sacraments of Initiation. Ordinarily, this period coincides with Lent. This time becomes a sort of spiritual retreat in preparation for the Rites of Initiation at the Easter Vigil.

Sacraments of Christian Initiation - At the Easter Vigil, Christians around the world celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord. It is the evening when the Elect are Baptized, Confirmed and Receive first Eucharist.

Period of Mystagogy - this is the ongoing living out of our Catholic faith and is a transition period from the RCIA community into the full life of the parish community and discipleship in the world.

