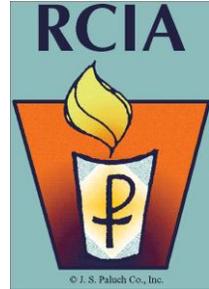


The Process of Adult Initiation



What is involved in the process?

There are several different components of the process of Adult Initiation here at St. Peter's.

First, please understand that your process of Initiation is a beginning for you, not an end. The process of RCIA begins with your inquiry into the life of the Church community; and ends when you enter the fullness of life with Jesus in eternity. In between those two points you will grow more and more in the likeness of Jesus and be an active member of the Church; and so serve your sisters and brothers as Jesus has taught us.

The process of RCIA, will prepare you for this new life of faith. The "textbook" for your faith journey will primarily be the Scriptures. Each week you will attend Mass and then be dismissed for the study of God's word. From time to time, we will celebrate special rites with you to mark your faith journey as you come closer to being received into the fullness of faith in the Sacraments of Initiation.

What are the Sacraments of Initiation?

Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist are Sacraments of Initiation.

Jesus taught us that Baptism is necessary for salvation; He promised us that He would send His Holy Spirit and He said if we eat His Body and drink His Blood we will live forever.

When do we celebrate the other Liturgical Rites mentioned?

The liturgical rites of the Order of Christian Initiation are celebrated at the beginnings of the different stages of the Order. These are the "stepping stones" from one stage to the next. Although many of our sessions will be together, the liturgical rites that we celebrate will treat those already Baptized differently because, although they are not yet in full communion with us, they are already a part of the Christian community through their Baptism.

If you are not yet Baptized:

If you are not Baptized you will receive all three Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter vigil.

If you are already Baptized:

If you are already Baptized: Baptism is Baptism, regardless of who did it. This was decided by the Bishops of the Church in the Third Century. Baptism makes a permanent mark on the soul and it cannot be repeated.

What is expected of an inquirer?

The community expects that you will be present at all sessions and meetings. Your presence is of utmost importance and is also a sign of your serious intention to become a member of the Church.

Who can sponsor or Godparent?

Your sponsor or Godparent can be a friend or parishioner. They must be at least 16 years of age, and/or fully initiated practicing Catholic.

What are the parts of the process?

The first period is the pre-catechumenate, or inquiry period. During this time you are here to inquire to see if this is what you want and introduce you to the parish life.

The second stage is called the period of catechumenate. This is a period of growth in holiness and knowledge. This stage ends before the season of Lent. This liturgical rite called the Rite of Election is celebrated in our Cathedral Church by our Bishop.

Having celebrated the Rite of Election, we enter into the season of Lent and the period of Purification and Enlightenment. During this time we will be entering into discussion and prayer in preparation for the Easter Sacraments.

At the Easter Vigil, the fullness of God's grace is celebrated in the Sacraments of Initiation. After our Easter celebration we enter into the last stage of the process, the period of Mystagogia. We will discover the many meanings behind the symbols of the Easter celebration, discuss the Easter scriptures, and continue to grow in our knowledge and love of God.

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