



AN INVITATION TO JOURNEY!

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is:

the process by which people become members of the Roman Catholic Church. The process is concerned with the total formation of the person into:

- Believing with the Church community (doctrinal formation)
- Living with the Church community (practical formation)
- Praying with the Church community (liturgical formation)
- Serving with the Church community (apostolic formation)

The RCIA is intended to serve:

- *The unbaptized who would like to learn more about the Catholic religion.
- *Those baptized in another religion who think they might like to become Catholic.
- *Those baptized Catholics who have not completed the Initiation Sacraments.

The RCIA Process is much more than a program:

- *It is a learning and loving process in which conversion of the heart brings one to Christ in a powerful manner.
- *It is an answer to the Gospel invitation "Come to me all you who are weary and find life burdensome, and I will refresh you. Take my yoke upon your shoulders and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart. Your soul will find rest, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

The St. Matthias RCIA Process:

Through weekly gatherings, those attending gain a deeper appreciation and understanding of the Catholic beliefs and practices. All are welcome and there is no obligation to become Catholic. Feel free to invite others who may be searching or who would like to know more about the faith.

Our First Gathering:

The first welcome gathering and call out meeting for RCIA will take place on Tuesday, January 4th at 7:00 p.m. at Gelsosomos in Crown Point. Please contact Jackie Gentry, St. Matthias Pastoral Associate to confirm your attendance at 219-663-4281 or email jackiemgentry@yahoo.com. We look forward to meeting you there!



RCIA INVOLVES THE WHOLE PARISH

Over the course of the next several weeks we will be highlighting the roles of the RCIA team members as we work to build strong teams to support the journey of our candidates as they prepare to receive their Sacraments of Initiation through the RCIA process. Please prayerfully consider reviewing these different roles and offering your time and talents to serve our candidates. You need not know everything about the Catholic faith, you simply must love your faith and have a strong desire to share that love with others! The Adult Faith Journey will begin this January and our Children's Team will form now and begin in early fall.

CORE TEAM MEMBER ROLES:

- *Oversee the entire process and dynamics of the RCIA group.
- *Provide theological and resource knowledge and preparation.
- *Long term planning for the success of the process.
- *Responsible for evangelization for team participation.
- *Weekly commitment for one hour on Tuesday evenings.

CATECHIST TEAM ROLES:

- *Prepares and presents teachings based on scripture and the life of the church.
- *Helps candidates and catechumens develop a love of the Word and a desire to live it.
- *Have some knowledge and a strong love of the Catholic faith.
- *Have an understanding and ability of speaking in front of a group.
- *Can relate to adult learning or child learning.
- *One time a month commitment on Tuesday evening for one hour.

PRAYER TEAM ROLES:

- *Prays for the participants in the RCIA process.
- *Prays for the team and their role in the process.
- *Supports the candidates through words of inspiration.
- *Weekly commitment to individual prayer and monthly commitment to note of encouragement.

MENTOR TEAM ROLES:

- *Is present when able to be a visible sign of the life of the church.
- *Is committed to supporting the participants by being welcoming and available to them.
- *Introduces fellow parish members to the candidates and catechumens.
- *One time a month commitment to attend either Breaking Open the Word on Sunday or Tuesday class.

If you are considering one of these roles, please contact Jackie Gentry, St. Matthias Pastoral Associate at 219-663-4281 or email jackiemgentry@yahoo.com.