

# Thinking about joining the Catholic Church?



## Join us for RCIA

**RCIA:** Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

**St. Henry Cluster Parishes**

St. Aloysius, St. Bernard, St. Francis,  
St. Henry, St. Wendelin

After you have read this pamphlet,  
Please pass it on to others who may  
feel God's call to become Catholic,  
or are interested in the RCIA process.

### **How does one become Catholic?**

Most Catholics are born into Catholic families and gradually come to share in the full sacramental life of the church. Some persons who may have been previously baptized in a non-Catholic Christian church, or baptized Catholic but not raised in the Catholic faith, can come into the Catholic Church by making a solemn profession of faith, being confirmed and sharing Eucharist with the Catholic community.

Some persons, never baptized, have been initiated through a process that leads to Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at the Church's annual celebration of Easter. The Catholic Church warmly welcomes new members and tries to provide an appropriate spiritual formation according to each person's needs. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the Church's way of bringing new members into the Catholic Church.



### **When would I need to call?**

Interviews would take place with each person before entering the RCIA process at the beginning of September. These interviews can be scheduled anytime from May to the beginning of September. Materials for members participating need to be purchased, so please call as soon as possible. There is no cost to take part in the RCIA process.

*The Community  
Of  
Believers*



### **If I begin, am I obligated to become Catholic?**

There is no obligation to make any kind of commitment nor is there any pressure exerted on anyone to become a Catholic. Because of your association with us, we hope that you would gain a deeper appreciation and understanding of Catholic beliefs and practices, and have grown in your relationship with God.

### **I think I'd like to begin but I'm still hesitant.**

If there is some concern or reason that you are reluctant to begin the RCIA process, Please call Deacon Randy Balster or his wife Diane, coordinators of RCIA, to discuss your particular concerns or situation.  
Cluster Office: 419-678-4118  
Email: [RandyBalster@yahoo.com](mailto:RandyBalster@yahoo.com)  
Home: 419-678-8322

### **How is the Christian Initiation of Adults implemented?**

Every parish is responsible for designing the formation of candidates for initiation according to the guidelines established by the body of Bishops for the universal Catholic Church. The process is concerned with the total formation of the person into believing with the Church Community, living with the Church Community, praying with the Church Community, and serving with the Church Community.

### **Who may attend the RCIA?**

- Persons who have never been baptized as Christians.
- Persons who have been baptized in another Christian faith tradition and are now interested in the Catholic tradition.
- Persons who were baptized in the Catholic tradition but were not raised as Catholics.
- Persons who feel inclined to take a more serious look at their Catholic faith and feel like they would benefit from journeying in faith with others.

### **How long does it take to become a Catholic?**

The RCIA is a process of preparation for the life time commitment that comes with reception into the Church. Some people may need more time than others to prepare for this. Most people have been thinking about becoming a member of the Catholic Church for some time before they enroll in the RCIA. The usual length of formal preparation is 8 months. In all cases, the initiation of new members ordinarily takes place at the Easter Vigil each year.

### **What does the RCIA involve?**

The RCIA group meets formally from the beginning of September through April for one and one half hours each week. During this time, those who decide to seek full Church membership are presented to the parish community at a Sunday liturgy. This and other Sunday rituals mark the spiritual growth of the candidates as well as express the community's joy and concern for them.

*Seek and You will Find.*



### **What topics are presented and discussed?**

The weekly sessions cover a broad range of topics because our Catholic beliefs encompass the whole fabric of our lives. Topics include:

- Scripture
- Trinity, Father, Son, Holy Spirit
- Our faith heritage
- The meaning of the Church
- The Seven Sacraments of the Church
- Conscience and moral decision making
- Worship and Liturgy
- Prayer
- Marriage, family life, ministry
- Many other topics