

## RCIA at St. Gertrude

- Do you feel that something is missing from your spiritual life?
- Do you feel that God is calling you to a deeper spiritual life through participation in the Catholic faith tradition?
- Have you been thinking about joining the Catholic Church for a while?
- Has someone you love and trust asked you to think about joining the Catholic Church?
- Are you drawn to unique aspects of the Catholic tradition like the rituals, liturgies, or social teachings?

*My home is by your altars, Lord of  
hosts, my king and my God!  
~ Psalm 84:4*

## Who is the RCIA process for?

- People who have never been baptized.
- People who have been baptized and have had faith formation in another denomination.
- People who have been baptized in the Catholic Church but who have not completed the Sacraments of Initiation – Eucharist and Confirmation.
- People who have received Baptism and Eucharist, but who have not received any formation since that time.

**If you are an adult seeking answers to questions about becoming Catholic or are Catholic and would like to receive the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist, you are invited to take part in the RCIA journey of faith.**

## The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults



*A Journey of Faith*

*September 2019  
to Pentecost 2020*

**St. Gertrude  
Catholic Church**

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# What is the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)?

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process by which adults learn more about the Catholic Church. It begins in the fall and meets until Pentecost.

Many people who begin RCIA are non-Catholics seeking to become Catholic or at least to explore whether Catholicism might be a good home. Those who complete the process and decide to become Catholic are initiated into the Church at the Easter Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday. Others who take RCIA are already Catholic but want a deeper understanding of their faith foundation.

RCIA is offered free of charge. It provides opportunities to become Catholic and to make a public profession of faith for those who choose to do so, but there is no pressure or obligation for either of these things.

The RCIA process does not ask those who have been baptized in another faith to give up their denominational experiences. Rather, the RCIA process seeks to add new colors and designs to their existing faith life tapestry.

In addition to attending Mass, the RCIA process includes weekly gatherings of breaking open the Word of God, sharing our stories, and learning about our faith traditions.

Topics explored during the RCIA journey include:

*God the Father, Son & Holy Spirit*

*Prayer*

*The Saints and Mary*

*Understanding the Mass*

*Holy Scripture*

*The Sacraments*

*Sin & Forgiveness*

*Living a Catholic Life*

*Advent & Lent*

*Social Justice Teaching*

**For information about the RCIA process at St. Gertrude or to register for the program, contact Kevin Cheers, Pastoral Associate, at [kchears@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:kchears@stgertrudechicago.org) or call the Rectory at 773.764.3621.**

## RCIA *A Journey of Faith*

### **Inquiry (Fall)**

*A time of reflection and discernment.*

### **Catechumenate (December to Lent)**

*A time for prayer, study, instruction, sponsor dialogue, and continued discernment.*

### **Enlightenment (Season of Lent)**

*The forty days of Lent are marked with deeper spiritual prayer, reflection, and discernment.*

### **Mystagogy (Easter Season)**

*The days between Easter and Pentecost are devoted to reflection on the RCIA journey, the power of the sacraments, and the enhanced relationship with God and with our faith community.*