

Dear Friends,

Are you or someone you know interested in becoming Catholic or finishing your initiation sacraments or even just learning more about your Catholic faith? Please prayerfully consider joining us in the fall, and be sure to invite others who you know may be interested, when we begin our Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program. We are truly blessed for the past few years to have combined our program with that of St. Mary's Clyde, St. Michael's Gibsonburg and St. Mary's Millersville. It has been a blessing to meet others from different parishes who are excited to become members of the Catholic faith and work and pray together with their pastor, pastoral leader and team members.

WHAT IS RCIA?

RCIA stands for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, a process often called a journey of faith aimed at welcoming others into our catholic family through reflection on the experiences of their lives, the messages of sacred scripture, and the teachings and doctrines of the Catholic Church.

WHO TAKES THIS "FAITH JOURNEY?"

- An unbaptized person interested in learning about the Catholic Church. (Catechumen)
- Catholics, who, though baptized, are not catechized and/or did not complete their sacraments of initiation (Eucharist and Confirmation). (Candidate)
- Persons baptized in another Christian faith who seek to make a profession of faith in the Catholic Church and be accepted into full communion of the Catholic Church. (Candidate)

WHAT IF I AM NOT SURE I WANT TO BECOME CATHOLIC BUT WANT TO LEARN ABOUT CATHOLIC TEACHINGS AND PRACTICES?

The RCIA journey respects each participant's faith experience and their individual faith development timetable. Those "inquiring" into the catholic faith meet with other inquirers, faith community members, and RCIA team members, at informal sessions. Friends and families are welcome to attend also. These sessions are offered as a time of discernment as to what God has planned for you.

WHAT DO YOU "STUDY"?

RCIA is more about faith formation than information. Resource materials are provided and videos are used, but the heart of RCIA is relationship and conversion. It is how we change from behaviors and attitudes which center on self to actions and choices which come from a relationship with a compassionate and loving God.

WHAT DO YOU LEARN ABOUT IN RCIA SESSIONS?

Sessions include topics such as Jesus Christ, the seven Sacraments, the Mass, how we pray, the Church calendar, the Blessed Virgin Mary, moral issues, Catholic Teachings, the Trinity, the Bible, the Saints, Church history and Catholic Tradition.

COME SERVE IN RCIA MINISTRY

Most people come to faith on the arm of a friend. Come serve in RCIA ministry as a sponsor or another member of the RCIA team. It will make a difference in your life, in the life of our parish, and in the lives of those on the RCIA journey.

WHAT IF I AM ALREADY CATHOLIC AND SIMPLY WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MY FAITH?

Come on down! All are welcome to join us on the journey of faith. The RCIA experience is helpful to new and life-long Catholics alike.

INTERESTED?

We are offering **information sessions** that will provide an opportunity to learn more about the program and to help answer any questions you may have about your own individual situation. You need only attend one and there are no commitments at this time – it is strictly an information seeking session. These sessions are: **Sunday, June 27 at 9:00 am, Sunday, June 27 at 12:00 pm and Wednesday, June 30 at 7:00 pm**

Yours in Christ,
Elaine Fisher
PSR/RCIA Coordinator