

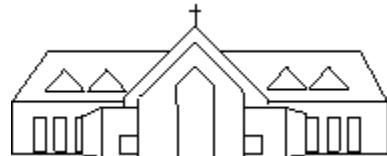
RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

RCIA is the process by which an adult joins the Catholic faith. For those not baptized this process leads to the Easter Vigil where they receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Those who have been previously baptized in a Christian tradition are invited into full communion in the Church through the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.

St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish

Here at St. Maximilian Kolbe, participants meet weekly in addition to regular Mass attendance. The sessions provide a relaxed, informative environment. The process is available all year. Each participant discerns when God is calling him/her to a decision of faith.



Prayer for the RCIA

O God, we thank you for implanting the gift of faith in human hearts. We thank you for sending Jesus, Your Son, as the fullness of your love. May his life and mission lead us to share in your divine life.

Today we ask you to bless in a special way all inquirers, catechumens, and candidates, who have generously responded to the invitation of Jesus: "Come, follow me." Help them to persevere in their journey of faith despite any difficulties. Bless those who minister through the RCIA program so that under the guidance of your Holy Spirit, they may lead others to a life of faith in Jesus Christ. Grant that all parishioners will take an active role in bringing new members into the Church. Call us all to a renewal of our faith, and inspire us all to be your light in the world.

Through Christ, our Lord.

Amen

A large, dark red oval shape containing the letters "RCIA" in a white, stylized, handwritten font. The oval is centered on the right side of the page, with a vertical red line extending from its top and bottom edges to the bottom edge of the page.

**Rite of
Christian
Initiation
for Adults**

RCIA is designed for

- persons who have never been baptized as Christians
- persons who have been baptized in another Christian faith and are now interested in the Catholic tradition
- persons who were baptized in the Catholic tradition but were not raised as Catholics

RCIA is a process

RCIA is concerned with the complete **formation** (*growth and education*) of its participants. It follows these four stages:

Precatechumenate

Phase one is a time of inquiry for individuals to learn more about the Catholic faith. This is done through **Catechesis** (*the oral teaching of Church tradition*), Scripture, Prayer, and sharing. During this stage, there is no need to make a commitment of any kind. This is a time for participants to learn and grow and listen to what God is calling them to do.

Catechumenate

The Catechumenate is a period devoted to formal preparation for full initiation. During this time participants work to gain an understanding of the teachings of the Catholic Church through prayer, practice and education. They also participate in several **liturgical rites** which are *prescribed religious practices and ceremonies*. During this period, participants are dismissed from Mass after the homily and spend additional time studying the Faith through the scripture readings.

Purification and Enlightenment

Phase three lasts through Lent and is a time for building strengths and overcoming weaknesses in the faith. This period climaxes at the **Easter Vigil** (*the Mass on the eve of Easter Sunday*). At the Vigil, participants receive the **Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist**. It is at this time that participants come into full Communion with the Roman Catholic Church.

Mystagogia

In this final stage of initiation the newly-initiated, along with the church around the world, work towards a deeper

understanding of Jesus' death and resurrection. It is during this time that the newly initiated reflect on the mysteries they celebrate: sharing the Eucharist, reading and studying God's Word and participating in the Parish programs and ministries.

Companions for the Journey

Because the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is such an important process, one cannot expect to go through this process alone. The RCIA team at St. Maximilian Kolbe provides a framework of catechesis, prayer, Scripture Study, and support. Each participant in this process also has a **sponsor** who acts as a personal link between the newcomer and the parish. He or she provides support and is a companion on the journey through RCIA. The entire St. Maximilian Kolbe community supports each newcomer through prayer, concern and participation in the RCIA rites and ceremonies.

Individuals interested in learning more about the Church and beginning this process can contact Deacon Mike Lippman at RCIA@Saint-Max.org or at (513) 252-4898.