

Invite a Candidate for Dinner

As a volunteer in the dinner program, you would invite a participant, their spouse, and their sponsor to dinner at your house one evening. You get to know a participant in the RCIA process and learn more about the process through their eyes. The participant gets another connection to the wider St. Mark community. These connections are vital to help participants grow into active members of the parish and remain active members once RCIA is over.

Prayer Support

Whether or not you can help in any other way, please pray for our RCIA participants. The Holy Spirit has called them to the Catholic faith, and answering that call can require courage and perseverance. They are greatly helped by our prayers.

Participants have told us they want to know that members of the parish are praying for them. Please email us to join our RCIA prayer support circle.

Questions?

Want to Volunteer?

Please contact:

(813) 907-7746

leader-RCIA@stmarktampa.org

**9724 Cross Creek Blvd
Tampa, FL 33647**



**Rite of Christian
Initiation for Adults
at
St Mark the Evangelist
Catholic Church**

How Can I Help?

Sponsor

Sponsor is one of the most demanding roles in the RCIA process, but also one of the most important and rewarding. Each relationship between sponsor and participant is unique, but in general, you are called to get to know your participant, assist him or her in living a growing Catholic Christian life, and be a key witness of his or her character, faith, and intention.

Many prospective sponsors are concerned about whether they know enough about Catholic doctrine and tradition. But the role of the sponsor is more an older sibling in the faith than an expert in the faith. You are not expected to know the answer to every question about Church teaching, but rather to be a guide and an example of a Catholic living your faith. You will be supported by the RCIA team and can direct questions to the team.

A sponsor supports the participant in the RCIA process by attending the 10:30 AM Mass each Sunday with the participant. The participant will be dismissed to Breaking Open the Word after the homily, and the sponsor rejoins the participant for the

catechetical session from 11:45 AM-12:45 PM (no later than 1:00 PM). These sessions are facilitated by an RCIA catechist (teacher).

Sponsors do participate in other brief Rites that recognize important steps in the participant's faith formation. These Rites usually take place at mass and occur infrequently throughout the RCIA process. Finally, a Sponsor assumes an active role at the mass when the participant receives the sacraments of initiation.

Traveling Companion

Traveling Companions are members of the St. Mark family who walk the RCIA journey with the participants in a less formal way than sponsors. Traveling Companions are not paired with a particular participant. Instead, they support all of the participants by attending some of the Sunday sessions and participating in some of the service projects and community events. Traveling Companions are examples of Catholics living their faith, and they give participants a chance to get to know more of the St. Mark family.

Hospitality

During each Sunday session, the RCIA team provides snacks and beverages to the participants and sponsors.

Whether you can volunteer for one Sunday or seven, your help is very much appreciated! Please contact us for the sign-up schedule.

Breaking Open the Word Facilitator

Each Sunday, the participants are dismissed from 10:30 AM Mass after the homily to break open the Word in small groups. Participants reflect on the Gospel and discuss how the readings from Mass that Sunday relate to their life.

Facilitators work from provided questions and help guide the group discussion. They are scheduled on a rotating basis. Perhaps the most important qualification for a facilitator is comfort with silence! Participants often take a little while to warm up, and facilitators must be patient rather than filling the silence with their own thoughts. Please contact us if you can help with this important ministry.