

2019 RCIA PROGRAM



Co-Cathedral of St. Thomas More
Tallahassee, Fl

Steps on your Journey	For the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)
What are the steps of the RCIA program for an individual who is not baptized?	Prior to beginning the RCIA process, an individual comes to some knowledge of Jesus Christ, considers his or her relationship with Jesus Christ and is usually attracted in some way to the Catholic Church. We call this the Period of Evangelization and Pre-Catechumenate. Often, contact with people of faith and a personal faith experience lead people to inquire about the Catholic Church.
Inquiry	In this step, the person, known as an "inquirer," may seek acceptance into the Order of Catechumens in a ceremony called the Rite of Acceptance. At this time, the inquirer affirms that he or she wants to become a baptized member of the Catholic Church.
Catechumenate	The Period of the Catechumenate is a time when a person is growing in faith, receives answers to the questions encountered along the way, and is learning how God is leading him or her on this journey. During this time, the Catechumens consider what God is saying to them in the Scriptures, what changes in their life they need to make to respond to God's inspiration, and what Baptism in the Catholic Church means.
Rite of Election	On the first Sunday of Lent, the Catechumens, their sponsors and families gather at the Co-Cathedral. The Catechumens publicly express their desire for baptism to the Bishop. Their names are recorded in a book and they are called the Elect.
Purification and Enlightenment	The days of Lent are a time of preparation leading up to the Easter Vigil marked by prayer, study, and spiritual direction. During this period, the parish community is praying for you. The Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation takes place during the Easter Vigil Liturgy on Holy Saturday when the Elect receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist, becoming fully initiated into the Catholic Church.
Mystagogia	The newly initiated Catholics continue their formation and education in the period called Mystagogia. This period continues at least until Pentecost. During this time, the newly baptized members reflect on their experiences at the Easter Vigil and continue to learn more about the Scriptures, the Sacraments, and the teachings of the Catholic Church. In addition they reflect on how they will serve Christ and help in the Church's mission and outreach activities.
What is meant by coming into full communion with the Church for an individual baptized in another faith community?	Coming into full communion with the Catholic Church describes the process for entrance into the Catholic Church for <i>already-baptized</i> Christians coming from another Christian denomination. In most cases, these individuals, known as Candidates, make a profession of faith but are not baptized again. To prepare for this reception, these individuals participate in the formation program to help them understand and experience the teachings and practices of the Catholic Church. The Candidates will be received into the Catholic Church before the Easter Vigil depending on circumstances and readiness of the Candidate.
What is the role of a sponsor for an adult being baptized?	Prior to the Rite of Election, the Catechumen will choose one sponsor, who will accompany the Catechumen on the day of Election, at the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation, and during the Period of Mystagogia. They are called to show the Catechumens a good example of the Catholic life and guide their progress. If needed, volunteers are available to serve as sponsors.
What is the role of a sponsor for an adult being confirmed?	Prior to the Rite of Election, the Candidate will choose one sponsor, who will accompany the candidate at the Rite of Confirmation and during the Period of Mystagogia. They are called to show the Candidate a good example of the Catholic life and guide their progress in the Christian life.
Time and Location of Classes	10:00 am to 11:30 am Sundays in Religious Education (RE) Classrooms 1 & 2
Class Attendance	Attendance at classes is mandatory but opportunities for makeup classes are available.
Instructors	Deacon Andy Grosmaire Mike & Silvia Alderman Chuck & Candace Bunker Alternates: Bill Parker and Jackie Lloyd; Lucinda Coverston
Resources (For makeup of missed classes and other good information)	Formed.org Enter Code: PXFZ3Q

Class Dates	Time/Place	Subject and Instructor	Teaching Materials	Saint of the Week	Coffee & Donuts
PERIOD OF EVANGELIZATION AND PRE-CATECHUMENATE					
Sep 8, 2019	10 to 11:30 am in RE 1&2	Welcome and the RCIA Journey Fr. John Cayer		St. Peter Claver September 9	Bunkers Aldermans
Sep 15	10 to 11:30 am in RE 1&2	The Journey of Faith	Symbolon – Part 1 The Catholic Faith Explained Session 1: Disc 1	Saint Pius of Pietrelcina September 23	Bunkers Aldermans
Sep 22	10 to 11:30 am in RE 1&2	Divine Revelation	Symbolon – Part 1 The Catholic Faith Explained Session 2: Disc 1	The Archangels September 29	Bunkers Aldermans
Sep 29	10 to 11:30 am in RE 1&2	The Bible	Symbolon – Part 1 The Catholic Faith Explained Session 3: Disc 2	Saint Francis of Assisi October 4	Bunkers Aldermans
Oct 6	10 to 11:30 am in RE 1&2	The Story of Salvation	Symbolon – Part 1 The Catholic Faith Explained Session 4: Disc 2	Saint John XXIII October 11	Bunkers Aldermans
October 6	After 11:45 am mass in the Church	A Tour of the Church	We encourage you to attend 1145 mass with us; we will provide reserved seats for the group		
Oct 13	10 to 11:30 am in RE 1&2	Who is Jesus?	Symbolon – Part 1 The Catholic Faith Explained Session 5 Disc 3	Saint Teresa of Avila October 15	Bunkers Aldermans
Oct 20	10 to 11:30 am in RE 1&2 Parish Picnic (afternoon)	The Paschal Mystery	Symbolon – Part 1 The Catholic Faith Explained Session 6: Disc 3	Saint John Paul II October 22	Bunkers Aldermans
Oct 27	10 to 11:30 am in RE 1&2	The Holy Spirit & the Life of Grace	Symbolon – Part 1 The Catholic Faith Explained Session 7: Disc 4	All Saints November 1	Bunkers Aldermans
Nov 3	10 to 11:30 am in RE 1&2	Why Do I Need the Church? Note Daylight Saving Time Ends Today	Symbolon – Part 1 The Catholic Faith Explained Session 8: Disc 4	Saint Martin of Tours November 11	Deacon Andy Aldermans
Nov 10	10 to 11:30 am in RE 1&2	Mary and the Saints	Symbolon – Part 1 The Catholic Faith Explained Session 9: Disc 5	Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini November 13	Bunkers Aldermans
Nov 17	10 to 11:30 am in RE 1&2	Last Things	Symbolon – Part 1 The Catholic Faith Explained Session 10: Disc 5	Bl. Miguel Agustin Pro November 23	Bunkers Aldermans
Nov 23	Fall Retreat				
Dec 1	11:45 in the church; discussion in RE 1&2	Rite of Acceptance at 11:45 am Mass; Discussion follows in classroom	Mandatory attendance for the Rite for the non-baptized	Saint Nicholas December 6 Our Lady of Guadalupe December 12	Bunkers Aldermans
PERIOD OF THE CATECHUMENATE					
Jan 12, 2020	10 to 11:30 am in RE 1&2	The Sacraments – Baptism & Confirmation	Symbolon – Part 2 Living the Faith Session 1: Disc 1	Saint Elizabeth Ann Seaton January 4	Bunkers Aldermans
Jan 19	10 to 11:30 am in RE 1&2	The Eucharist – Source & Summit of Christian Life	Symbolon – Part 2 Living the Faith Session 2: Disc 1	Saint Anthony, Abbot January 17	Bunkers Aldermans
Jan 26	10 to 11:30 am in RE 1&2	Walk Through the Mass – The Mystery	Symbolon – Part 2 Living the Faith Session 3: Disc 2	Saint Agnes January 21	Bunkers Aldermans

Feb 2	10 to 11:30 am in RE 1&2	Penance and Anointing of the Sick – God’s Mercy Revealed	Symbolon – Part 2 Living the Faith Session 4: Disc 2	Saint John Bosco January 31	Bunkers Aldermans
Feb 9	10 to 11:30 am in RE 1&2	Matrimony and Holy Orders – The Sacraments of Service & Communion	Symbolon – Part 2 Living the Faith Session 5: Disc 3	Saint Paul Miki and companions February 6	Bunkers Aldermans
Feb 16	10 to 11:30 am in RE 1&2	A Catholic Moral Vision	February 14 – Ash Wednesday – Lent Begins Session 6: Disc 3	Saint Valentine February 14	Bunkers Aldermans
Feb 23	10 to 11:30 am in RE 1&2	A Love that Lasts	Symbolon – Part 2 Living the Faith Sessions 7-8: Disc 4	Saint Peter Damian February 21	Bunkers Aldermans
PERIOD OF PURIFICATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT					
Mar 1	10 to 11:30 am in RE 1&2 3 pm Rite of Election	Catholic Social Teaching in classroom Rite of Election that afternoon in the church	Symbolon – Part 2 Living the Faith Sessions 9-10: Disc 5 (Mandatory attendance for the non-baptized at Rite of Election)	Saint Katharine Drexel March 3	Lenten Season
Mar 8	10 to 11:30 am in RE 1&2	Prayer Process	The Dynamic Catholic	Saints Perpetua and Felicity March 7	Lenten Season
Mar 15	10 to 11:30 am in RE 1&2	Meet in Church at 10 am Discussion after Scrutiny in classroom	First Scrutiny at 10 am Mass – Non baptized	Saint Patrick March 17	Lenten Season
Mar 22	10 to 11:30 am in RE 1&2	Meet in Church at 10 Discussion after Scrutiny in Classroom	Second Scrutiny at 10 am Mass – Non baptized	The Annunciation of the Lord March 25	Lenten Season
Mar 28	TBA	Confirmation Retreat			
Mar 29	10 to 11:30 am in RE 1&2 Confirmation 6 pm	Meet in Church at 10 Discussion after Scrutiny in Classroom	Third Scrutiny at 10 am Mass –Rite of Confirmation for baptized non-Catholics at 6 pm	St. Thomas More June 22	Lenten Season
Apr 5	10 to 11:30 am in RE 1&2	Holy Week	Palm Sunday		Lenten Season
Apr 11	Church 10 am	Holy Saturday Retreat & Rehearsal for unbaptized			
Apr 11	Sunset	Easter Vigil	Sacraments of Initiation		
MYSTAGOGIA					
Apr 19	10 to 11:30 am in RE 1&2	Holy Week Reflections Where do we go from here?			Bunkers Aldermans

IMPORTANT DATES IN THE CATHOLIC YEAR

Date	Event	Description
Friday, November 1, 2019	All Saints Day (Holy Day of Obligation)	All Saints Day is a special feast day on which Catholics celebrate all the saints, known and unknown. While most saints have a particular feast day on the Catholic calendar (usually, though not always, the date of their death), not all of those feast days are observed.
Sunday, November 24, 2019	Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe	The Feast of Christ the King is the last day of the liturgical year and beckons us to ask "Is Christ more king of my life now than a year ago?"
Sunday, 11:45 am December 1, 2019	First Sunday of Advent Rite of Acceptance	Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas. Traditionally, it has been celebrated with prayer and fasting, which is why it is known as the "little Lent." Advent is also the start of the liturgical year in the Roman Catholic Church. Rite of Acceptance - Required attendance for the unbaptized (Catechumens). "This is the liturgical rite...marking the beginning of the catechumenate proper, as the candidates express and the Church accepts their intention to respond to God's call to follow the way of Christ."
Monday, December 9, 2019	Immaculate Conception (Normally December 8 but since that falls on a Sunday, it will be observed the following Monday)	The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is the subject of a lot of misconceptions. Perhaps the most common one, held even by many Catholics, is that it celebrates the conception of Christ in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Immaculate Conception Celebrates God's Preservation of the Blessed Virgin Mary From Original Sin. We celebrate another feast—the Annunciation of the Lord—on March 25, exactly nine months before Christmas. It was at the Annunciation, when the Blessed Virgin Mary humbly accepted the honor bestowed on her by God and announced by the angel Gabriel, that the conception of Christ took place.
Wednesday, December 25, 2019	Christmas (Holy Day of Obligation)	Christmas: The Celebration of the Birth of Jesus Christ. The word Christmas derives from the combination of Christ and Mass; it is the feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
Wednesday, January 1, 2020	Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)	The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. During the Twelve Days of Christmas, the Catholic Church celebrates many important feasts, including the feasts of Saint Stephen, the first martyr (December 26), whose martyrdom is recorded in Acts 6-7; Saint John the Apostle (December 27), who wrote the Gospel of John and the Book of Revelation, as well as three epistles; the Holy Innocents (December 29), the children who were slaughtered at the order of King Herod, when he was trying to kill the Christ Child; and the Holy Family (normally celebrated on the Sunday after Christmas, and on December 30, when Christmas falls on a Sunday). None, however, is as important as the feast celebrated on the octave (eighth day) of Christmas, January 1: the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God.
Sunday, 3 pm March 1, 2020	Rite of Election	Required attendance for the unbaptized (Catechumens). On the first Sunday of Lent, the Catechumens, their sponsors and families gather at the Co-Cathedral. The Catechumens publicly express their desire for baptism to the Bishop. Their names are recorded in a book and they are called the Elect.
Wednesday, February 26 , 2020	Ash Wednesday	Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, the season of preparation for the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday. Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us. As the ashes are applied to a person's forehead, the words spoken are: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" or "Repent and believe in the Gospel."
Sunday, 10 am March 15, 22, and 29, 2020	First, Second, and Third Scrutiny	Required attendance for the unbaptized (Catechumens). <i>"143. In order to inspire in the elect a desire for purification and redemption by Christ, three scrutinies are celebrated. By this means, first of all, the elect are instructed gradually about the mystery of sin, from which the whole world and every person longs to be delivered and thus saved from its present and future consequences. Second, their spirit is filled with Christ the Redeemer, who is the living water (gospel of the Samaritan woman in the first scrutiny), the light of the world (gospel of the man born blind in the second scrutiny), the resurrection and</i>

		<i>the life (gospel of Lazarus in the third scrutiny). From the first to the final scrutiny the elect should progress in their perception of sin and their desire for salvation."</i>
Sunday, April 5, 2020	Palm Sunday	Palm Sunday commemorates the triumphal entrance of Christ into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-9), when palm branches were placed in His path, before His arrest on Holy Thursday and His Crucifixion on Good Friday. It thus marks the beginning of Holy Week, the final week of Lent, and the week in which Christians celebrate the mystery of their salvation through Christ's Death and His Resurrection on Easter Sunday.
Thursday, April 9, 2020	Holy Thursday	Holy Thursday is the day on which Jesus Christ celebrated the Last Supper with His disciples, four days after His triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Only hours after the Last Supper, Judas would betray Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane, setting the stage for Christ's Crucifixion on Good Friday.
Friday, April 10, 2020	Good Friday	Good Friday is observed on the Friday before Easter Sunday. On this day Christians commemorate the passion, or suffering, and death on the cross of Jesus Christ. Many Christians spend Good Friday in fasting, prayer, repentance, and meditation on the agony and suffering of Christ.
Saturday, April 11, 2020	Holy Saturday	Holy Saturday is the final day of the Easter Triduum, the three days (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday) immediately preceding Easter, during which Christians commemorate the Passion and Death of Jesus Christ and prepare for His Resurrection.
Sunday, April 12, 2020	Easter Sunday	Easter is the greatest feast in the Christian calendar. On Easter Sunday, Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. For Catholics, The Easter Triduum comes at the end of 40 days of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving known as Lent. Through spiritual struggle and self-denial, we have prepared ourselves to die spiritually with Christ on Good Friday, the day of His Crucifixion, so that we can rise again with Him in new life on Easter.
Sunday, April 19, 2020	Divine Mercy Sunday	Divine Mercy Sunday is a relatively new addition to the Roman Catholic liturgical calendar. Divine Mercy Sunday is celebrated on the Octave of Easter (the eighth day of Easter; that is, the Sunday after Easter Sunday). Celebrating the Divine Mercy of Jesus Christ, as revealed by Christ Himself to St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, this feast was extended to the entire Catholic Church by Pope John Paul II on April 30, 2000, the day that he canonized Saint Faustina. Christ's Divine Mercy is the love that He has for mankind, despite our sins that separate us from Him.
Sunday, May 24, 2020	Ascension	The Ascension of Our Lord, which occurred 40 days after Jesus Christ rose from the dead on Easter, is the final act of our redemption that Christ began on Good Friday. On this day, the risen Christ, in the sight of His apostles, ascended bodily into Heaven.
Sunday, May 31, 2020	Pentecost Sunday	Pentecost Sunday is one of the most ancient feasts of the Church, celebrated early enough to be mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles (20:16) and Saint Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians (16:8). Pentecost is celebrated on the 50th day after Easter (if we count both Easter Sunday and Pentecost Sunday), and it supplants the Jewish feast of Pentecost, which took place 50 days after the Passover and celebrated the sealing of the Old Covenant on Mount Sinai. Pentecost is often called "the birthday of the Church." On Pentecost Sunday, with the descent of the Holy Spirit, Christ's mission is completed, and the New Covenant is inaugurated.
Sunday, June 7, 2020	Trinity Sunday	Trinity Sunday is a moveable feast celebrated a week after Pentecost Sunday. Also known as Holy Trinity Sunday, Trinity Sunday honors the most fundamental of Christian beliefs—belief in the Holy Trinity. The human mind can never fully understand the mystery of the Trinity, but we can sum it up in the following formula: God is three Persons in one Nature. There is only one God, and the three Persons of God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—are all equally God, and They cannot be divided.
Sunday, June 14, 2020	Corpus Christi	The Feast of Corpus Christi, or the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ (as it is often called today), goes back to the 13th century, but it celebrates something far older: the institution of the Sacrament of Holy Communion at the Last Supper. While Holy Thursday is also a celebration of this mystery, the solemn nature of Holy Week, and the focus on Christ's Passion on Good Friday, overshadows that aspect of Holy Thursday.

Friday, June 19, 2020	Sacred Heart of Jesus	Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus goes back at least to the 11th century, but through the 16th century, it remained a private devotion, often tied to devotion to the Five Wounds of Christ.
Saturday, August 15, 2020	Assumption of Mary (Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year)	Celebrated every year on August 15, the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary commemorates the death of Mary and her bodily assumption into Heaven, before her body could begin to decay—a foretaste of our own bodily resurrection at the end of time. Because it signifies the Blessed Virgin's passing into eternal life, it is the most important of all Marian feasts as well as being a Holy Day of Obligation (but not this year because it falls on a Saturday.)

THE FACES BEHIND THE RCIA PROGRAM

St. Thomas More



Father John B. Cayer

Rector

Fr. John came to St. Thomas More in July 2013. He was the associate pastor at STM over 7 years ago in 2006-07. He's been ordained over 20 years and serves as rector of our parish. He grew up in Ft. Walton Beach, FL. Fr. John has been involved with the RCIA process for over 20 years in the five parishes that he has served.

Email: frjohn@cocathedral.com



Father Tim Holeda

Parochial Vicar

Fr. Tim came to St. Thomas More in 2016. Previously, he was the associate pastor at Blessed Sacrament. He serves as the Director of Vocations and Seminarians for the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee. He entered the Catholic Faith through the RCIA program at St. Thomas More.

Email: frtim@cocathedral.com

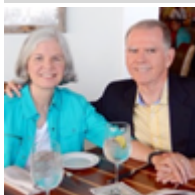


Deacon Andy Grosmaire

Director of RCIA Program

Deacon Andy became a Catholic at the Easter Vigil in April 2002 at Good Shepherd Catholic Church. In June 2013, he was ordained a Catholic deacon by Bishop Parkes. He was assigned to the Co-Cathedral of St. Thomas More in December 2013 to serve as a deacon.

Email: deaconandy@cocathedral.com



Mike & Silvia Alderman

RCIA Team Members

Mike and Silvia Alderman have attended St. Thomas More since the 1970s and they have worked with the RCIA program over 20 years. They also serve the church as sacristans and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion.

Email: silvia.alderman@gmail.com



Chuck & Candace Bunker

RCIA Team Members

Chuck and Candace Bunker share their passion for their faith by serving together on the RCIA team. In addition, Candace has served as President of the Pastoral Council and Past President of the Tallahassee Board of Catholic Charities of Northwest Florida. Both Chuck and Candace entered the church thru the RCIA program in 2003 and 2007 respectively.

Email: ingoditrust@comcast.net



Lucinda Coverston

RCIA Team Member

Lucinda joined the church at the Co-Cathedral of St Thomas More in April 1995. She enjoys working with and learning from those interested in joining the church. This enthusiasm has led to participation in RCIA programs over the past 23 years as a speaker, group facilitator, sponsor and administrator. She has also served as a lector. I urge you to remember the words of Mary, Mother of God in your faith journey. "Do whatever he tells you."

Email: beads2rosaries@gmail.com



Bill Parker and Jackie Lloyd

RCIA Team Member

Jackie & Bill have been members of the Co-Cathedral since 1998 when Bill entered the Catholic Church through the RCIA program. Jackie serves as the lector coordinator; they both enjoy giving back and are grateful for the opportunity to participate on the team. The RCIA program brought us the joy of faith alive; we pray for the same for each one of you.

Email: Lloyd.jackiem@gmail.com

**CO-CATHEDRAL OF ST. THOMAS MORE – RCIA AND CONFIRMATION 2019-2020
REGISTRATION FORM**

LAST NAME: _____

FIRST NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

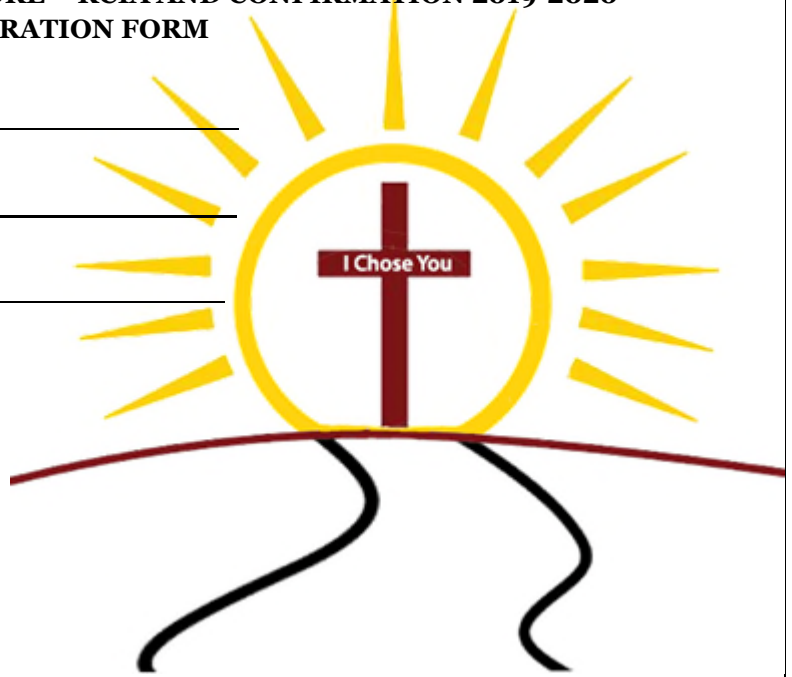
APT. #: _____

STATE: _____

ZIP CODE: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____



HAVE YOU BEEN BAPTIZED IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

YES

NO

I AM A BAPTIZED CATHOLIC SEEKING:

COMMUNION

CONFIRMATION

HAVE YOU BEEN BAPTIZED IN ANOTHER CHRISTIAN DENOMINATION?

YES

NO

IF YES WHICH DENOMINATION? _____