

Preparation for the Unbaptized

Inquiry Stage - Unbaptized is learning about the Catholic faith and deciding whether to embrace it.

First Formal Step - Rite of Acceptance into the order of catechumens, in which the unbaptized express their desire and intention to become Christians. Catechumen is a term the early Christians used to refer to those preparing to be baptized and become Christians.

Rite of Election - Rite in which the catechumens names are written in a book of those who will receive the sacraments of initiation. At the rite of elections, the catechumen again expresses the desire and intention to become a Christian, and the Church judges that the catechumen is ready to take this step. Normally the rite occurs downtown.

After this rite the more intense reflections purification and enlightenment takes place in which you deepen your commitment to repentance and conversion. As elects you participate in:

Scrutinies: they are celebrated at Mass on the third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent. The scrutinies are rites for self-searching and repentance. They are meant to bring out the qualities of the catechumen's soul, to heal those qualities which are weak or sinful, and to strengthen those that are positive and good. During this period the catechumens are formally presented with the Apostles Creed and the Lords Prayer which you will recite the night you are initiated.

Initiation: Occurs on Easter Vigil. Catechumens are baptized, confirmed and receive the holy Eucharist.

Preparation for Christians

Because you have already been baptized, you are already Christians. Because of your status as Christians the church determines your level of life within a Christian community and leading a Christian life.

Stage - Continued instruction in the Catholic faith

As a candidate you are not required to participate in the rites for catechumens. For those that have lived as Christians need only instruction in the Catholic tradition and timing of the reception into the Church is also different. The reception of candidates into the communion of the Catholic Church should ordinarily take place at Sunday Eucharist of the parish community and we are welcoming them into the Catholic Eucharistic community.

Christians coming into the Church should receive the sacrament of reconciliation before their reception into the Church to ensure that they are in a state of grace when they are received and confirmed.

The Christians fully enter the Church by profession of faith and formal reception. The pastor administers the sacrament of confirmation and celebrates the holy Eucharist, giving the new Catholic the Eucharist for the first time.