

# Holy Angels Catholic Church

## Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.)

*Are you interested in becoming Catholic?*

*Do you know anyone who is interested in becoming Catholic, perhaps a friend, or even a spouse?*

*Are you a baptized Catholic, but never received the sacraments of Confirmation or Eucharist?*

*Are you simply interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith?*

If you can answer "yes" to any of these questions you should come to the RCIA inquiry sessions on August 11<sup>th</sup> and August 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-10:15am (between the Sunday morning Masses) in the Conference Room. At the inquiry sessions, you will have the opportunity to ask questions and talk with Fr. Patrick Hirtz about the RCIA process.

For those interested in participating in RCIA, classes will meet weekly from 6:30-8:00pm, beginning in September. The day of the week is yet to be determined. Babysitting will be available. Meetings include witness stories, instruction, discussion and fellowship. The RCIA information packet can be found on the bookcase shelves in the foyer and on the website.

### COME FIND OUT ...

August 11 <sup>th</sup>	- Your Questions Answered
August 18 <sup>th</sup>	- Your Questions Answered, continued
September	- Regular Weekly Presentations Begin

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Religious Background: (e.g., Baptist, Methodist, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Leave at Holy Angels Parish Office or mail to:

Holy Angels Church  
535 Tucker Street  
Dyersburg, TN 38024

..... SO WE KNOW HOW MANY TO EXPECT!

**Holy Angels Catholic Church**  
**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.)**  
*The Journey to Communion*

The Catholic Church extends an invitation to everyone to be in full communion with her and the Body of Christ established by Jesus during his ministry on earth and enlivened by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

In order to be in full communion with the Catholic Church an individual must accept, believe and profess all that the Catholic Church believes and teaches. This profession is not modeled after the individual conscience but the very heart of the Church.

**A Process**

Therefore, everyone who has reached an age at which she/he can be taught what truth is and how to distinguish right from wrong, usually determined to be age 7 or greater in the United States, must go through a period of formation that brings a person to faith in Jesus Christ and his Church, who is the guardian of the Gospel he proclaimed. This formation is three dimensional – liturgical, pastoral and catechetical – and takes place within the context of worship, counseling and instruction, all within a worshipping community known as a parish.

Although those who have been previously baptized may be received into the Church at any time after it is determined they are properly formed to make such a commitment, it is an ancient tradition of the Church to baptize adults each year during a celebration that recalls the history of salvation. This celebration is known as the Easter Vigil and demonstrates the unity of the Church through two thousand years as it celebrates the resurrection of Jesus.

Even if one has been baptized and active in another Christian church, no one begins the Journey to Communion fully prepared to make such a commitment to a new way of life. There are questions to be asked and answered. There are traditions that must be understood. There is a community to get to know you. And, there is a community that is eager to get to know those who want to embrace the Catholic way of life. After all, adopting a new way of life and a new outlook on life is what one does when he or she becomes Catholic.

**You?**

Do you have questions about the Catholic Church? What she teaches? Is she a biblical church? Are her members saved? Do Catholics worship statues? What is a pope?

Come and walk with us on a Journey to Communion. You are always welcome, and there is never any pressure to “join” because faith is a gift from God and can never be coerced.

The Journey to Communion meets weekly at beginning at 6:30pm. The day is yet to be determined. Meetings are scheduled for 90 minutes and include witness stories, instruction, discussion and fellowship. Babysitting will be available.

**What Do You Do Next?**

*If you are just seeking information*, you can just come to the inquiry meetings scheduled for August 11<sup>th</sup> & August 18<sup>th</sup> with your questions and hear the many aspects of Catholicism explained in brief answers to your questions and those of others present. Continue to attend the weekly meetings until you have the information you seek.

*If you “think” you might want to come into full communion with the Catholic Church*, you should call the parish office at 287-8000. You can schedule an appointment to speak to the pastor. Also, come to the meetings scheduled for August 11<sup>th</sup> & August 18<sup>th</sup> and complete an information form. Then, continue your participation in the weekly sessions.

*If you “know” you want to come into full communion with the Catholic Church*, you should call the parish office at 287-8000. You can schedule an appointment to speak to the pastor. Also, come to the meetings

scheduled for August 11<sup>th</sup> & August 18<sup>th</sup> and complete an information form. Then, continue your participation in the weekly sessions.

### Expectations

If you have any notion that you want to become Catholic, you must be aware that the Church has certain expectations of you even as you make your Journey to Communion. These include:

- † attendance and participation at Mass *every* Sunday and Holydays of Obligation
- † attendance and participation in weekly Journey to Communion meetings
- † attendance and participation in any special “days of reflection” or retreats
- † attendance and participation in all applicable Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults
- † participation in “Breaking Open the Word” on Sundays
- † observance of Catholic practices as prescribed by the Church, e.g., fasting, abstinence, penance
- † commitment to learning and understanding the avenues of Catholic piety

### Personal Nature of the “Journey to Communion”

While we invite everyone to seek full communion with the Catholic Church, we recognize that not everyone’s journey is the same. Some take more time than others before they can honestly make the public profession that is required of them. Other may struggle with a particular teaching of the Church, e.g., the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, the Immaculate Conception of Mary, etc. Others may have begun the journey with no intention of “becoming” Catholic and only reach that decision later in the process. Still others may have an obstacle that prohibits them from coming into full communion until it is resolved, e.g., a former marriage, the former marriage of a spouse, etc.

It is important to understand that every person’s Journey to Communion is personal. The Journey to Communion Leadership Team will assist each person face her/his past, present and future in a way that reveals a desire for conversion in such a way that all are confident that the Catholic way of life is what the person desires so that s/he can praise God to the best of her/his ability. This means that some may be received into the Church at one time and others at another, but most will be received into the Church at the Easter Vigil.

### A Note to Those Affected by Previous Marriages

The Catholic Church teaches that a person may enter into only one sacramental marriage at a time and that such a marriage may be ended only by the death of one of the spouses. Any person who has been previously married and has since been remarried has an impediment to being received into full communion with the Church. This obstacle applies to everyone equally, even spouses of those seeking full communion, whether they are/were Catholic or not or are/were baptized or not. Therefore, if you or your spouse has been married previously, even if you are not now currently married, and you seek full communion with the Catholic Church you must go through what is known as the annulment process. Because annulments are not granted easily or quickly, it is imperative that you make an appointment with one of the priests of the parish as soon as possible to begin this process. Please bring with you the following documents/information:

- † if Catholic, a new copy of the baptismal certificate with all notations issued from the church of baptism within the previous six months
- † a photocopy of any and all marriage licenses, including the current marriage
- † a photocopy of any and all divorce decrees
- † full contact information (name, address, telephone number) for any and all former spouses

All petitions for decrees of nullity must be submitted to the Marriage Tribunal before October 1 if one hopes to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church next spring.