

### **What Topics Are Discussed?**

The weekly sessions cover a broad range of topics because the Catholic faith encompasses the whole fabric of our lives. Some of the topics include the study of Scripture, the Trinity consisting of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the Church, the seven Sacraments, especially Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, Liturgy, Mary and the Saints, prayer and many others.

### ***If I Begin, Am I Obligated to Become Catholic?***

No pressure is exerted on anyone to become Catholic. Accordingly, we respect the decision of each inquirer. The journey of faith is taken one step at a time.

### ***I Think I'd Like To Begin, But ...***

If you have some concerns which may be keeping you from beginning the process, please feel free to give us a call at 361-573-5304. We will gladly meet with you in person with the utmost confidentiality.

### **Want more information?**

Contact Deacon Eddie Huse at  
ehuse@hfccvic.org

### **Interested in joining the process?**

Register on-line at [www.hfccvic.org/JoinRCIA](http://www.hfccvic.org/JoinRCIA)

Sessions are  
Sunday Mornings  
9:30 – 10:45 am  
beginning

In September 2019 in  
St. Greg Hall (Entrance C)

Holy Family of J.M.J  
Parish  
704 Mallette  
Victoria, Texas 77904  
361-573-5304

RCIA



**Holy Family of J.M.J.  
Parish Invites you**



**To embark on  
a Journey to  
become a  
disciple of  
Jesus Christ**

## How Does One Become Catholic?

Most Catholics are born into Catholic families and gradually come to share in the full sacramental life of the Church.

Others, previously baptized in other Christian Churches, have become Catholic by making a solemn profession of faith, being confirmed, and sharing in Eucharist with the Catholic Community.

Some never baptized, have been initiated through a process that leads to Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Church's annual celebration of the Easter Vigil.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the Catholic Church's way of initiating new members. It warmly welcomes new members and tries to provide an appropriate spiritual formation for each inquirer.



### Who Can Participate?

Those never baptized as Christians.

Those baptized in another Christian faith tradition and now interested in the Catholic tradition.

Those baptized in the Catholic tradition but have not received the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation and wish to enter into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church.

## What Amount of Time does this Process Require?

The RCIA is not a class or program. It is a process of conversion. It prepares one to embark on a journey of faith that leads to a lifelong commitment as a Catholic. All Catholics are called to daily conversion and renewal ~ to be on this faith journey.

RCIA stresses the need for a living experience of the Church as a "people of God" and not just "knowledge" about the Church. A person's desire to turn towards God (conversion) and become connected to a community does not happen instantly, but takes time as the Holy Spirit nurtures that deepening desire within.

The usual length of formal preparation is approximately eight months. Some people may feel they need more time to prepare. In most cases, the initiation of new members is celebrated at the Easter Vigil.



## What Takes Place in RCIA?

The RCIA involves four stages, each marked by a special ritual celebrating the person's deepening desire to say "yes" to living the Catholic Faith.

### **The Inquiry:**

a time for searching for God, for meaning in life, or for asking initial questions and seeking answers about the basics of the Catholic faith.

### **The Catechumenate:**

a time of being formed by the gospel and of learning more in depth about the Catholic tradition.

### **Purification & Enlightenment:**

a time during the Season of Lent involving prayer and deeper reflection as one prepares to receive God's new life at the Easter celebration.

### **Mystagogia:**

a time after the Easter celebration to deepen one's understanding of what it means to "become" Eucharist and live Christ's mission in our world.

### **Why Are There Rituals?**

The RCIA is the Catholic Community initiating new members into itself. This takes place in community, not a private celebration. The rituals express outwardly the community's support and joy for those walking the journey of RCIA.