

How to Become a Catholic



And How Adult Baptized Catholics can
Complete their Confirmation

Your First Steps

- Reading this presentation and visiting this internet site.
- Contacting the coordinator: Annie McEntee
rcia@saint-mikes.org
- Join us for Mass at St. Michael!

How long will it take?

- As long as you need it to take.
- For those who are not baptized it will be a minimum of one year.
- For those previously baptized, it will depend on your previous exposure to Christianity.

There is one baptism

If you are baptized Catholic or in another Christian tradition then:

- You will not be re-baptized.
- If you are baptized in another Christian tradition the date of your initiation into the Catholic Faith will depend on your need for Christian formation as a Catholic.
- If you are a baptized Catholic the date of your Confirmation will depend on your previous religious education and exposure to the Faith.



Inquiry

For both the baptized and those not yet baptized the process starts with Inquiry-

- An informal period of questions and answers.
- A period of sharing our stories that led us to this moment of seeking God's call in our lives.
- Lasts as long as is needed, maybe weeks or months.
- Ends when the inquirer discerns they are ready to take the first step in becoming Catholic.

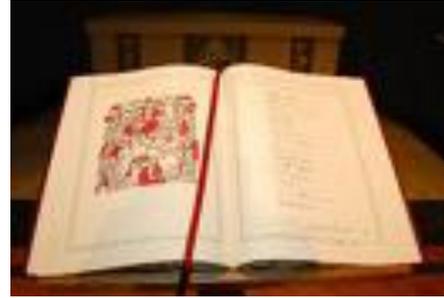
Rite of Acceptance/Welcoming

- Celebrated at the end of the Inquiry period.
- The first step to become Catholic.
- A public proclamation that the inquirer is ready to pursue life in the Catholic Church.
- Marked by a realization that God has acted in the inquirer's life by noticeable changes in prayer or faith centered deeds.
- Rite of Acceptance is for those not previously baptized.
- Rite of Welcoming is for those baptized in another Christian faith tradition (Optional).

Catechumenate

- Period begins after the Rite of Acceptance/Welcoming.
- This is a period of more intense study.
- Catechumens and candidates are exposed to more formal teaching on the truths of the Catholic Faith.
- Time is spent also on scriptural reflection and prayer.
- For those who are previously baptized this period will last as long as needed, ending in discernment and initiation into the Catholic faith.
- For persons who are not baptized this period will last at least a year.

Rite of Election



- Celebrated at the Cathedral the first Sunday of Lent for those to be baptized.
- Marks the end of the Catechumenate Period.
- Bishop calls seekers to the Easter sacraments of initiation.
- Those seeking Baptism sign the book of the Elect.
- Catechumens now known as “The Elect”.

Purification and Enlightenment



- 40 days before Easter.
- Coincides with Lent.
- Marked by three scrutinies for those not baptized, a time to reflect on God's call to conversion.
- A time of prayer and reflection.

Easter



- Sacraments of Initiation are celebrated at the Easter Vigil.
- Those who are not previously baptized receive Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

Sacraments of Initiation

- **Baptism:** Basis for the Christian life, we are freed from sins, reborn as children of God, incorporated into the church.
- **Confirmation:** Necessary for the completion of baptismal grace, perfects bond to the Church, enriches with a special strength of the Holy Spirit.
- **Eucharist:** Source and summit of the Christian life, Christ himself our Pasch, communion in the divine life and unity with the people of God.

Mystagogia

- A period of reflection on the Easter mysteries.
- Begin the process of becoming full and active members of the Church.

