

## Part Three of the Series

### RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation

As previously explained the RCIA is a gradual journey of many steps and stages into full initiation into the Catholic Church. The Journey starts with a period of inquiry which allows unbaptized adults to seek and question without any commitment to continue. If and when they are ready, they enter into the second period of the RCIA, the catechumenate. This period begins with the Rite of Acceptance, and concludes when catechumens participate in the Rite of Election on the first Sunday of Lent, from which time they are named the “elect” and begin the third period of the RCIA, a time of “purification and enlightenment.” This period takes place during Lent, and is focused on the spiritual preparation of the “elect” for the reception of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. This period includes prayer, reflection on the mysteries of our life in God, participation in the Holy Week Triduum, and a retreat. At the Easter Vigil, the “elect” receive the sacraments of initiation making them full members of the Catholic Church community. Baptized Christians from other Christian traditions may also be received into the Church at this time by making a formal Profession of Faith in the Catholic Church being confirmed and receiving Eucharist for the First time.

**If you know anyone who is interested in becoming Catholic please have them call the parish office: 248-542-8720.**