



The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults is the method by which adults of other faith backgrounds or those who have not completed their initiation into the church are educated and received into the Roman Catholic Church. It involves a time of preparation prior to the final initiation at the Easter Vigil. The exceptions to this are adults who have been Baptized and received Eucharist, but have not been Confirmed; they receive private education and join the church at Pentecost.

Adults who have not been Baptized or received Eucharist begin the process as *Catechumens*. During the process, they are invited to attend Mass up through the Liturgy of the Word. While a prayer for their continued enrichment is included in the Prayer of the Faithful, they will be dismissed following the homily, and are invited to meet with the RCIA team in another space for the topic of the day. While in fellowship with the team, they will have courses in the sacraments of initiation in which they will be participating, as well as general information about our faith. As the time nears for them to join us fully, they will first join all of the other catechumens in the diocese for the Rite of Election, where the Bishop will affirm their election and enroll their names in the Book of Enrollment for that Easter Vigil. Next begins a period of purification and enlightenment during which they will continue their studies in a more intense way during the Lenten season. This time is "intended as well to enlighten the minds and hearts of the elect with a deeper knowledge of Christ the Savior." (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, 1988 Study Edition) During this time the catechumens undergo the scrutinies, a time of self-searching and repentance with the spiritual purpose of strengthening their conversion and deepening their resolve. The final rite is celebrated at the Easter Vigil, when the catechumens are brought fully into communion with the church through all of the sacraments of initiation.

If you are interested in joining the Roman Catholic Church, please contact the Office of Religious Education for details at 302-652-7141. If you are already committed and want to get your name on the list, just fill out RCIA Information Form and send it to us - we'll contact you!

Adults who have been Baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are considered *Candidates*. They will undergo the same course of study as the Catechumens, but at the Easter Vigil they will only be Confirmed and receive the Eucharist to be brought into full communion. If you are in this position, please contact the Office of Religious Education for details at 302-652-7141.

Adults who have been Baptized, received the Eucharist, but were never Confirmed are brought into the church after a period of private study at the celebration of Pentecost at the Cathedral in Wilmington. For more information, they need to contact Deacon Joe Romans at 302-475-2902.

All RCIA candidates and catechumens require a sponsor. Sponsors must be active, practicing Catholics who are 16 years of age and already confirmed in the Catholic Church. If the sponsor is not a member of St. Mary Magdalen parish, they need to have the Sponsor Eligibility Form filled out by their current pastor and returned to us by the date on the form.