

When does the RCIA meet?

Meetings are on **Tuesday Evenings** at the **Religious Education room in the school**. Meeting times and dates for the **2008-2009** are presently scheduled as follows:

Dates for 2009-2010

October: 6, 13, 20, 27

November: 3, 10, 17

December: 1, 15, 22

January: 5, 12, 19, 26

February: 2, 9, 16, 23

March: 2, 9, 16, 23

Celebration at the Easter Vigil

April 3, 2010: 9:00 pm

Occasionally a work schedule may interfere with attendance. At that time the team saves the information for the inquirer and attempts to respond to any needs the inquirer may have as a result of missing that particular session.

How do I get more information and/or become part of the RCIA either as an inquirer, sponsor, community sharer or a team member?

Everyone is welcome to come and see what the RCIA is all about. Members of the community can be an occasional sharer, a frequent visitor, a sponsor, or a one time presenter. The Inquirer is welcome to come and test the waters and enjoy the sharing.

To let us know if you are interested or to have us send more information, please call the Office.

440-327-2201

**St. Peter Church
35777 Center Ridge Road
North Ridgeville, OH 44039**



What is the RCIA?

The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is a process for bringing Adults into full communion with the Church. It emphasizes the Gospel of Jesus, shares the doctrines of the church, promotes prayer and spiritual growth, and invites the community to walk with those on this spiritual journey. It is celebrated in stages or steps and leads to the sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist and full communion with the Catholic Church.

Who would benefit from the RCIA?

- The Inquirer who has never been baptized and simply wants to know more about the Catholic Church. No decision need be made until the end of the process. If the inquirer decides to join the Church, they would then receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist— the Sacraments of Initiation which constitutes full communion with the Catholic Community.
- The Individual who is a baptized Christian and wishes to know more about the Catholic Faith with the intention of making a decision about becoming Catholic. This process leads to reception into the Church through a profession of faith, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.
- The Individual who has been baptized as a Catholic but may still be in need of reception of Eucharist and Confirmation. Now, as an adult, that person wishes to learn more about the faith and become a confirmed Catholic.
- The Individual who has been away from practicing his or her faith and is looking for an avenue through which to rejoin the faith. This process awakens appreciation of the Catholic Faith for many and also leads to renewed trust in God and participation in the Community of Believers.

What happens at the meetings?

The meetings are run by a team of faith filled parishioners and staff. They are informal and are comprised of a presentation, discussion time and a time for Questions. Generally, there is a main presenter, however, the entire team is available at each meeting so the inquirer may receive several perspectives of living our Faith.

What are the Liturgies?

Celebrations in Church mark various steps in this process giving the inquirer time to think about the next step and to make a decision whether to continue on with the process. Some of these celebrations are followed by a social gathering which affords the community an opportunity to meet the inquirers.

What is a Sponsor?

The Inquirer has a sponsor. This person should be a confirmed Catholic who receives the sacraments on a regular basis. The sponsor walks with the inquirer, helping to answer any questions, sharing his or her faith with the inquirer and acting as a faith companion. It is a very special role in the process and should be a person the inquirer trusts. The sponsor may be a spouse, a close friend, a relative, but not a parent. The parent-child relationship is special and would be redundant. However, the parent is always welcome to come to the meetings as part of the sharing group. If there is a difficulty, the community is always willing to aid in sponsoring an inquirer.

What is the Role of Community?

The faith community has a very important role. Its members make up the welcoming body which gives the inquirer an example of how our faith is lived and celebrated. They pray for the inquirers throughout this process. They may speak for the Inquirers at the liturgies, or personally welcome them during a social after Mass. Some community members act as sharers at the meetings. Other members of the community act as hospitality personnel who set up a reception after the liturgies so that the rest of the community can meet and welcome the newest members.

What will the Inquirer be expected to do?

The serious inquirer will attend the sessions, read the materials presented, ask questions when needed and participate. Since the meetings are informal and there is always time for discussion and questions, the process is not intimidating in any way. Spiritual growth, prayer and study are encouraged. There are no tests, however, reading materials are handed out in addition to the presentation since the sessions are considered only the beginning of learning about the Catholic Church. The reading material is meant to stimulate conversation amongst the group and to fill in where the presenter may have merely touched on a subject.

Why is there a team of Presenters?

The team represents the church. They walk this journey of faith with the inquirer exploring the mysteries of our faith and sharing the joy of living that faith. Each presenter has a unique style and perspective of how this faith impacts our daily life—each one valuable and according to the Gospels. The inquirer has the opportunity to hear from several persons on the same subject after the subject itself is explored. The team is well prepared and enjoys working with this process. They know full well that they learn as much from the inquirers as the inquirers learn from them. It is a mutual sharing since those inquiring often come from a rich heritage of faith in their own lives.

What if I have Already been Baptized?

There is only one Baptism of water and the Holy Spirit. Those who have been baptized in any faith with water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, are not baptized again. Instead, if they decide to join the Catholic Faith, they profess their faith, they are confirmed and they receive Holy Eucharist. We ask that a baptismal certificate be presented some time before the Profession of faith. The remaining Sacraments of Initiation (Confirmation and Holy Eucharist) take place at the Easter Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday.