

R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel welcomes any person who considers becoming a Catholic. The director will be happy to meet with the person to answer any questions about the process and to better understand the uniqueness of that person's faith development and needs.

Who can participate in the process?

- ❖ Those who are not baptized.
- ❖ Those who were baptized in another Christian tradition and who seek to enter Full Communion with the Catholic Church.
- ❖ Those who were Baptized Catholic but who never had the opportunity to receive Holy Communion & Confirmation.

Those who seek to join the Catholic Church become members of the Catechumenate: an ongoing process that meets people where they are on their faith journey and gently initiates them into the life of the parish and the Catholic Church.

Four Phases of R.C.I.A.

PHASE ONE: INQUIRY

- A time for getting acquainted, awakening to where you are in faith, and with the Lord.
- INCLUDES:
 - Evening sessions of question, input, and sharing about the fundamentals of faith.

PHASE TWO: CATECHUMENATE

- A time for formal learning about Catholicism, praying, and growing in faith according to Church teaching.
- INCLUDES:
 - Rite of Acceptance into the Catechumenate for the unbaptized.
 - Rite of Welcome for those already baptized who are preparing for full communion.
 - Call to Continuing Conversion of those already baptized.
 - Breaking Open the Word – Adult Catechumens and Candidates are dismissed from Mass after the Liturgy of the Word with a Catechetical team member to explore the Sunday readings.
 - In addition, catechetical sessions are held weekly in the evenings.

PHASE THREE: PURIFICATION & ENLIGHTENMENT DURING LENT

- A time for purifying and preparing for Easter through special Sunday rituals.
- INCLUDES:
 - Sunday Celebration of the Rite of Election of Catechumens – those preparing for Baptism.
 - Breaking Open the Word sessions on Sundays through Lent.
 - Evening sessions offer continued prayer, questions, discussion and reflection.
 - EASTER VIGIL
 - Time of commitment for the Elect (those seeking baptism)
 - Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation and Rite of Reception into the full communion of the Roman Catholic Church for those already baptized in another Christian tradition or the Catholic Tradition.

PHASE FOUR: POST EASTER TIME OF MYSTAGOGIA

- A time of nurturance.
- INCLUDES:
 - A time for discovery of gifts in new members. Sessions continue after Easter to reflect together on the mystery of our Easter experience and how we can share that experience in Ministry and Community.

For information call: Stephanie Snyder in the Adult Formation office
at (630) 852-3303 ext. 105 or by email at stephanie.snyder@ourladyofmtcarmel.org.