

## Share Your Faith

As a parishioner we ask that you personally invite interested relatives, friends and neighbors to the RCIA. Personal invitation is how most adults come into the Church. However, if you prefer, you may give the names to the parish by filling in the form with this brochure (or on another piece of paper) and mailing it to the rectory or dropping it in the collection basket.

Please PRAY for those who are interested in the Church, for those working with them, and for our whole parish, that we may be a welcoming and loving community that attracts new members to the parish.

### RCIA INVITATION FORM

Please send an Invitation for the RCIA to:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

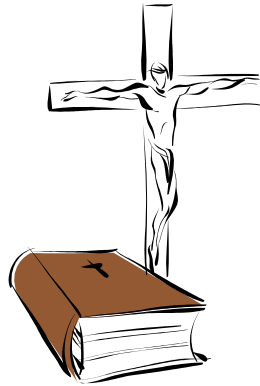
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer that you do  do not  mention my name on the invitation

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults—RCIA, places the ministry of receiving new members into the hands of the entire parish community. The RCIA states that the initiation of adults is the responsibility of all baptized members of the parish. All the members of the Immaculate Conception parish community help candidates through the initiation process.

The parish makes Christ known, by the example that each parishioner gives of their own faith by their lives.

Please pray that catechumens and candidates may come to know the Lord through us.

# Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

*The Rite of Christian  
Initiation of Adults  
(R.C.I.A.)  
& You*



*Classes Start  
October 1st*

*Immaculate Conception Church*  
110 Maryknoll Rd.  
Old Monroe, MO 63369  
636-661-5002

[www.icomparish.org](http://www.icomparish.org)

## **What is the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) and what does it have to do with you?**

The RCIA is a journey--a process of conversion both for a person who is interested in becoming Catholic and those who already are.

Most Catholics experienced the process of becoming Catholic in a gradual way: Baptized as an infant, we grew up in Catholic homes, with a Catholic education, and came to share in the Sacramental life of the Church as we grew up. The RCIA becomes an opportunity to ask ourselves what the real meaning of our faith is--and how we share that faith with others.

Others come to the Catholic Church as adults. Some are already Baptized Catholic, but without religious formation; some Baptized in another faith tradition; and some having never been Baptized.

Adults interested in the Catholic Church come to us because they were invited by a spouse, a fiancée, friend, neighbor or parishioner. Some are reluctant to take that first step--to approach the priest, or deacon, or call the rectory. But often they do come when someone is willing to take the risk and INVITE them.

## **How is the RCIA organized?**

The RCIA begins with weekly sessions, usually on Tuesday evenings. The process is organized in the following stages (steps):

### **First: Pre-Catechumenate (Inquiry)**

This is the "come and see" (John 1:39) time—a time for questions, finding out more about the Catholic Church, its faith and traditions, all centered on our Lord, Jesus Christ. There is no commitment to becoming Catholic during this time.

### **Second: Catechumenate**

After the Pre-Catechumenate, those who are committed to continuing after their initial inquiry are formally welcomed within the community and begin a period of learning more about our Lord Jesus through the Scriptures, the Catholic Church, the Mass, the Sacraments, and daily living as a Catholic.

### **Third: Purification and Enlightenment**

This period begins during Lent (the forty days period prior to Easter) and ends at Palm Sunday (the Sunday

before Easter. During Lent, the Church calls those who are ready to make their final preparation for initiation into the Catholic Church through Baptism and/or reception of Confirmation and the Holy Eucharist. This is a time of more intense spiritual preparation.

The parish community joins the candidates on the Lenten journey—which helps to strengthen what is good within all of us and remove all that is harmful or sinful in our lives.

### **Fourth: Sacraments of Initiation**

At the Easter Vigil (the Saturday evening before Easter morning) the candidates will be baptized or received into the Church, receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and the Eucharist for the first time.

### **Fifth: Mystagogia:**

This is the period after Easter that completes the initiation journey. It is a time of unfolding the meaning of the Sacraments of Initiation received at Easter. It is also a special time for new Catholics to become more at home in our parish community.