



# RCIA

*A Journey In Faith*

The Fort Recovery Catholic Cluster (Mary Help of Christians, St. Joseph, St. Paul and St. Peter Parishes) welcome you as you explore a relationship with Jesus and the Church he founded. Our community will make this spiritual journey with you through the RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS ...known as RCIA.

It is the process by which those who wish to explore the Catholic faith community are welcomed and introduced to the beliefs and practices of the Church. We will pray with you and help you form a deeper relationship with God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit through our study and through our conversations. We will study the Bible, the Sacraments, the Mass, the Ten Commandments, and so much more.

We will explain Catholic practices and beliefs.

Our call to conversion lasts a lifetime. **The RCIA process in most cases takes about a year. It starts in September and continues to Pentecost.** It is a series of classes and gatherings to prepare unbaptized adults (special arrangements are made for preparing children) for the Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. We welcome adults and children who have been previously baptized in another faith who desire full communion with the Catholic Church through a profession of faith and reception of the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. We also welcome Baptized Catholics seeking instruction and the Sacraments of Confirmation and/or Eucharist. The day and time for our sessions are set to fit the needs of those who register. We generally meet in the Library at Mary Help of Christians for one and one-half hours once a week. All materials used are provided for you; there is no charge.

The full RCIA process consists of four stages or periods of formation. The four stages are:

1. **Period of Inquiry (Pre-catechumenate)** – a time of learning and discernment, ending sometime near December with the Rite of Acceptance for the unbaptized and the Rite of Welcoming for the baptized.
2. **Period of Catechumenate** – a time when the instruction provides a more in-depth focus on the doctrines of the Catholic faith. This period ends at the beginning of Lent with the Rite of Sending and the Rite of Election.
3. **The Period of Purification and Enlightenment** – coincides with the season of Lent. It is a time of final preparation with more intense spiritual preparation for the Catechumens, who are also called the Elect (unbaptized), and Candidates (baptized) to deepen their knowledge and relationship to Christ. The baptized candidate is prayed for in the Penitential Rite Scrutiny on the second Sunday of Lent. The unbaptized Catechumen, or Elect, is prayed for in the three Scrutinies on the third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent. This stage culminates at the Easter Vigil liturgy when those preparing receive the Sacraments of Initiation or are received into full communion with the Church.
4. The final stage is **The Period of Mystagogy**, a Greek word meaning “leading into the mysteries” or “learning about the mysteries.” Mystagogy takes place from Easter thru Pentecost. The newly initiated begin their lifelong pilgrimage of growth as the mysteries of their faith unfold.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in exploring the Catholic faith through RCIA, please send an email to [rcia@fortrecoverycatholics.org](mailto:rcia@fortrecoverycatholics.org) or call the Cluster Office at 419-375-4153 for more information or to request a registration packet.