

Frequently Asked Questions about Becoming Catholic

How Does One Become Catholic? Baptized as well as unbaptized individuals enter the Catholic Church through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) process which leads to full initiation into the sacramental life of the Church. Unbaptized individuals are received at the Easter Vigil (Saturday before Easter). Those who have already been baptized may be received either at the Easter Vigil or alternate Church Feast.

What Does RCIA Involve? The RCIA meets year round on Wednesdays from 6:30pm – 8:30pm. Additionally, there are service opportunities, retreats and prayer services which help you become incorporated into the Body of Christ.

What is Inquiry? It's an informal session where you are free to ask any questions you might have about the Catholic Faith. Contact our office for the next scheduled session.

What is the Rite of Acceptance and Welcome? It is a celebration where baptized and unbaptized inquirers publicly declare to the church their intentions to continue their faith journey. The church, in turn, welcomes them. Here at Holy Trinity this Rite is celebrated in January.

If I Begin, Am I Obligated to Become a Catholic? There is no obligation to make any kind of commitment nor is there pressure exerted on anyone to become a Catholic. We respect the conscience and decision of every inquirer. We hope you will gain a deeper appreciation and understanding of Catholic beliefs and practices through your attendance at our RCIA sessions.

I Am Already Baptized. Will I Need to Be Baptized Again? Generally not. The Catholic Church recognizes the action of the Holy Spirit in other Christian communities and accepts valid Christian baptisms.

What is A Sponsor? What if I Don't Know Anyone Who Can Be My Sponsor? A sponsor is a confirmed Catholic who has volunteered to be your companion during your faith journey. Sponsors commit to pray with and for you, attend RCIA sessions with you and generally help you to become a part of the parish family. If you do not have someone to be your sponsor, we'll provide you with one.

Are Catholics Christians? Yes. The term Christian refers to all who recognize Jesus as the Christ (Messiah) and Lord. Catholics can trace their lineage as a Church back to Jesus' Twelve Apostles.

Why Can't I Go to Communion? Sharing of the Eucharist is a sign of full unity, an expression of shared belief, practice and fellowship in the Catholic Church. We respectfully ask those who are not yet Catholic to refrain from receiving the Eucharist. Everyone is invited to come forward at the time of Communion to receive a blessing. Simply indicate your desire by crossing your arms across your chest.

Who Can I Contact if I Have Additional Questions? Please feel free to contact Joanne Suwinski, RCIA Coordinator at 678-466-1738 or jsuwinski@holyltrinityptc.org with any questions you might have.