

‘Come and See’

Adult Initiation

CONTACT INFORMATION

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at St. Lawrence

‘Come and See’ was Jesus’ response to the first disciples. He says the same thing to those who would follow him today. The **RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)** is the process through which men and women discern and respond to God’s invitation to life in Christ as lived out in the Catholic faith community.

Outline of the Initiation Process

There are four periods and three major rites that mark the transition from one stage to another on this journey of faith:

I. Pre-Catechumenate Period

This is a time for questions about the Catholic faith as well as faith sharing about God's presence in one's life. The Rites of Acceptance and Welcome celebrate one's intention to follow the way of Christ.

II. Catechumenate Period

Formation in this period encompasses reflection on the Word of God, experiences of worship, opportunities for service, and immersion in community fellowship. The Rite of Election acknowledges God's call to faith and signifies one's readiness for discipleship.

III. Purification and Enlightenment Period

Coinciding with Lent, prayerful recollection purifies one's heart and enlightens the mind about Christ. Sacramental celebrations (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist) at the Easter Vigil mark full initiation or communion with the Catholic church.

IV. Mystagogy Period

Following initiation, insights into that experience as well as the mysteries of faith and discipleship are shared and explored. Pentecost marks the end of formal sessions but is also the beginning of life-long discipleship.

Pastoral Considerations

The Catholic Church upholds the sanctity of marriage. You may need to go through the **annulment process** before you can

Celebrate the Easter sacraments if either you or your spouse has been married before. Call the parish office (770-963-8992) and request an appointment to discuss your situation in confidence with a priest or deacon.

To be a **godparent or sponsor** one must be a fully initiated Catholic who is at least 16 years old and living a life consistent with Catholic faith beliefs. A parent or spouse cannot be your Confirmation sponsor or godparent.

Parish sponsors are parishioners assigned to welcome you to our parish family as well as guide and support you on your journey of faith.

Session Times

Catechetical sessions are held on Tuesday nights from 7:30 till 9 p.m. Weekly sessions begin in August and continue till Pentecost Sun.

Dismissal sessions (which begin in late November and continue till Easter) take place during the Sunday 8 a.m. Mass.

Childcare for toddlers and young children is available in the nursery if requested.

Registration Information

One can inquire about the process any time of the year, however enrollment in the current formation group ends in late November. An interview with Diane and Rita begins the registration process. In addition to completing a RCIA registration form, a copy of your birth certificate or baptismal certificate will be required. If applicable, proof of annulment may be needed. There is no fee for the RCIA process but those who wish to do so may make a monetary donation after Easter.

Who's Who

Adults who have never been baptized are called *catechumens*. They choose godparents to witness their Baptism and Confirmation.

Adults who have been validly baptized in a Christian denomination are called *candidates*. They are not re-baptized but will need a sponsor for Confirmation.

