

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A ROMAN CATHOLIC?

You are welcome to join our RCIA group!

The **RCIA**—the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**—is a process, a journey, a time of spiritual growth for people who:

- Are interested in becoming Roman Catholic...or
- Are already baptized in another Christian tradition and desire full communion with the Roman Catholic Church...or
- Are baptized Roman Catholic but have not yet received the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist.

MEETING TIMES AND PLACES

After inquiry and interviews interested persons meet weekly and “journey” as a group beginning Thursday September 8, 2016

- They meet every Thursday evening with the RCIA team for prayer, study, and discussion.
 - Time: from 7pm to 9pm
 - Place: the Franciscan Community Center, 214 West 97th Street, lower level
- They attend Mass together every Sunday at 12 Noon to worship God and to hear and reflect on the Word of God.

THE FOUR PERIODS OF THE RCIA

There are four parts to this process or faith journey. Each stage expresses a deepening of one’s faith and commitment to Jesus Christ.

I. The Period of Inquiry

The period of inquiry is a time for questions and finding out more about our life of faith in Jesus Christ. The Sunday Noon Mass and homily, the Thursday evening meetings, prayer, faith-sharing, discussions, reading, and reflection on the Gospels facilitate this.

II. The Catechumenate

The Rite of Acceptance and Welcome ceremonies begin the second RCIA period. This ceremony will be celebrated **Oct. 9th, 2016** at the 12 Noon Mass. Godparents, sponsors and the entire parish community join in welcoming and offering prayers for all members of the RCIA group.



“Receive the Sign of the Cross on your forehead. It is Christ himself who now strengthens you with this sign of his love....”

During this RCIA period the catechumens (those desiring to be baptized) and other candidates continue to attend the Sunday Noon Mass, our sacred liturgy, **as a group**. They reflect on the Scripture readings following the homily at that Mass.

The Thursday evening sessions continue with study and prayer to deepen one’s relationship with Jesus Christ, to understand His life and teachings, and to develop a spirit of faith, hope, charity and community.

III. Lent: the Period of Purification and Enlightenment

The six weeks of Lent start with Ash Wednesday March 1st, 2017. Lent is a time of prayer, reflection, openness, study, fasting (if possible) and a Lenten “practice.” It is a time of more intense preparation for all the RCIA members.

The Rite of Election: On **March 5th**, the First Sunday of Lent, after the homily at the Noon Mass, those preparing to be baptized, along with their godparents, are taken to the Cathedral of St. Patrick for the Rite of Election.

At this ceremony those not yet baptized are “called by name” and presented to Cardinal Dolan—“chosen” for the reception of the sacraments at the Easter Vigil.

“Thus says the Lord, who created you...fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine.”

Isaiah 43:1

The Call to Continuing Conversion: On the Second Sunday of Lent, **March 12th**, the baptized candidates preparing for Confirmation and First Eucharist, accompanied by their sponsors, are presented to Cardinal Dolan for the **Rite of Calling Candidates to Continuing Conversion**. They are recognized for their desire to be sealed with the Holy Spirit and to have a place at Christ’s Eucharistic table.

The Lenten Season ends at the **Easter Triduum**, i.e., **Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil**. These are the most important days for all Christians around the world, as is reflected in our church environment, our special liturgies and our worshipping together. RCIA members participate in all these liturgies.

The Easter Vigil is Holy Saturday Evening, April 15th, 2017. On this sacred evening we celebrate the **Resurrection of Our Lord!**

RCIA members receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and First Eucharist during this wonderful liturgy.

Alleluia! Alleluia!



*“I baptize you
in the Name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen!”*

IV. Mystagogy

The RCIA journey continues into the fourth period, which is called **Mystagogy**, “learning the mysteries” of God’s love for us. Mystagogy is a time of reflection on the past months that led to the reception of the sacraments, and a continuation of instruction and worshipping together. Topics for discussion are selected to reflect on the RCIA experience, to explore how one can continue spiritual development, and what opportunities exist for parish involvement—parish ministries and service to others in Christ.

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AN INVITATION TO JOIN US

If you have visited Holy Name of Jesus Church and celebrated the Liturgy with us, you must have a sense of the joy we experience when we gather together in prayer. We are deeply rooted in the conviction that **GOD is at work in all people**. Thus **all are welcome at Holy Name**. Whether one has been part of another faith tradition or none, we believe that we share a common search to love and serve God and one another. If you are sensing that God is

inviting you, and you are wondering about the joys and blessings we experience, we are happy to share our journey of faith with you.

INTERESTED? PLEASE CONTACT:

Holy Name of Jesus Church RCIA
207 West 96th Street,
New York, New York 10025
212-749-0276, ext. 110 or email: holynamenyc@aol.com

Or:

Mary V. Widhalm, RCIA Coordinator
212-866-6797 or 646-464-2363
marywidhalm15@gmail.com



Requirements: A copy of your birth certificate
or if baptized a copy of your baptismal certificate

Registration fee: \$100.00 for books and materials, payable in
September