

The R.C.I.A. Process Rites & Rituals



Period of Evangelization and Precatechumenate (Inquiry Stage):

This is the time for inquiry and introduction to Gospel values – a time for getting an overview of Catholic beliefs, and getting to feel at home in the Catholic Church.



Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens

This is the liturgical rite marking the beginning of the catechumenate period as the candidates and catechumens express and the Church accepts their intention to respond to God's call to follow the way of Christ.

Period of the Catechumenate

This is the time for the nurturing and growth of the candidates' and catechumens' faith and conversion to God and additional attention to the study of His Word in Holy Scripture.



Rite of Sending for Election

This rite offers the parish community the opportunity to express its approval of the catechumens and to send them forth to the celebration of election assured of their care and support



Rite of Election

This is the liturgical rite by which the Church formally ratifies the catechumens' and candidates' readiness for the sacraments of initiation and at which time the "elect" express their desire to receive these sacraments.

Period of Purification and Enlightenment (Lent)

This is the time immediately preceding the elects' initiation. It is a time of reflection, intensely centered on conversion, marked by preparation rites leading to the celebration of the sacraments at the Easter Vigil



The Scrutinies

The Scrutinies are solemnly celebrated on Sundays and are rites for self-searching and repentance and have above all a spiritual purpose. They are meant to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good. These rites, therefore, should complete the conversion of the elect and deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ and to carry out their decision to love God above all



Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation (Easter Vigil)

This is the liturgical rite by which the elect are initiated through baptism, confirmation, and the Eucharist (catechumens) or through a profession of faith, confirmation, and the Eucharist (candidates).

Period of Mystagogy (Postbaptismal Catechesis)

This is the time following the celebration of initiation, during which the newly initiated experience being fully a part of the Christian community by means of pertinent catechesis and particularly by participation with all the faithful in the Sunday Eucharistic celebration.