

# Interested in Becoming Catholic? OR Missing Sacraments of Communion and/or Confirmation? You may be interested in the R.C.I.A. program!

## What is the RCIA?

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process established for the universal Church for individuals to become Catholic and receive the sacraments of initiation — Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist. This initiation process also involves a parish community experiencing a renewal in faith as it prepares and welcomes new members into the Church. The Rite speaks of conversion as a “spiritual journey.” Centered on fostering a deep relationship with Jesus and the Church he founded, this journey takes place through distinct stages over a period of time suitable to bring about a thorough catechesis, significant experience of the parish community, and commitment to the liturgical and moral life of the Catholic faithful. The RCIA process is a restoration of the ancient catechumenate, arising within the first three centuries following the era of the apostles. It was the early Church’s way of Christianizing the pagan Roman Empire. The Second Vatican Council called for the restoration and use of this venerable and powerful method of initiation for the worldwide Church.

## Who is RCIA for?

1. Persons in need of Baptism.
2. Persons baptized in another Christian tradition who desire to become Catholic.
3. Persons baptized Catholic in need of First Communion and/or Confirmation.

## How long is the RCIA process?

The time varies, but is rarely shorter than six months or longer than two years. The Church greatly respects the time each person needs for conversion and decision. The RCIA text gives guides for discerning this on a case-by-case basis.

## Ways to Begin the Journey:

1. Make an appointment with Sr. Donna to discuss your interest and the process.
2. Read the Gospel of Luke in the Bible just small section each day to reflect on.
3. Attend Sunday (Sat. night) Mass weekly
4. Write down your questions
5. Ask God for help (Pray).
6. Read over the booklet, *Welcome to the Catholic Church/the Mass*

## Three Important aspects of the Process:

- **Attending Sunday Liturgy (Mass) and Prayer**
- **Catechesis** – learning about and understanding the basics of the Faith
- Inner **Conversion** to Christ and the Church

## When do I have to make the final decision?

God wants us to act freely and come to him freely. If any point along the process you wish to withdraw from the process, you are free to do so. It is best to discuss any concerns or questions with your sponsor and with Sister Donna, a team member or any of the priests before making your final decision. Know that you are always welcome to return.

## Program Director and Contact: Sister Donna D’Alia

Parish Center Office Located at St. Rose, Belmar – 603 7<sup>th</sup> Ave- next to the Church (enter through 8<sup>th</sup> Ave.)

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**Team Members:** Sister Donna, Michelle Robbins, Bob Koos