



*The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults
Christ the Servant Parish*

What is the Period of Inquiry?

The period of inquiry is a time of welcoming by the parish team for those interested in the Catholic Church? The focus of these meetings will be the parish team sharing their own faith experiences, answering questions regarding the Catholic tradition, customs and the overall process of initiation. And the fundamental question: Is the Gospel of Jesus really Good News?

How often will inquiry sessions be offered?

Inquiry sessions to be offered once-a-month/ or as needed and a time convenient for the parish team and for the inquirers. Some sessions will follow the 9:00 AM Mass on Sundays and periodically sessions will be offered in the morning, afternoons, or evenings to meet the demands of a working individual and family.

Who is invited to the Inquiry Sessions?

The sessions are open to anyone: unbaptized or baptized (Catholic or non-Catholic).

Are the Catechumens and the Candidates in the same program?

No. Candidates will have a program tailored to their needs and Catechumens will have theirs. The time of participation in the Candidacy Period is generally a period of three months. The time period for Catechumens is a longer period of preparation, instruction and formation during the year. The Director, Team, and Pastor will determine the course of preparation for the particular Catechumen, dependent on when the Rite of Acceptance occurred. Following the guidelines for the RCIA (“...no greater burden than necessary... required for the establishment of communion and unity” RCIA 473.)

What is the Rite of Entry into the Catechumenate/ Candidate Instructional Period?

Entry into the Catechumenate/Candidate Instructional period occurs at the Rite of Acceptance/Rite of Welcoming, which will be celebrated at Sunday Mass during the year in order to welcome new individuals as Candidates and Catechumens.

What is required of a Catechumen? (A person non-baptized)

- Participation in the the Catechumenate:
 - Breaking Open the Word Sessions: generally held weekly during a period of dismissal from Sunday Mass, lasting for one hour.
 - Supplemental Catechetical Sessions: regular instructional sessions that focus on doctrinal topics that stem out of the previous weeks' lectionary readings – and which continue to integrate the catechumens into the faith life of the Church. These sessions will be held twice a month.
 - Prayer Services: scheduled regularly throughout the catechumenate period
 - Service Projects: minimum of one service project prior to baptism.
- Participation in the Period of Purification and Enlightenment: This is a more intense phase of preparation for Catechumens and takes place only during Lent and only for those individuals ready to move beyond the Catechumenate. Transition into this period is signaled by the Rites of Sending and Election, celebrated on the First Sunday of Lent
- Catechumens (now called “The Elect”) celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil

What is required of a Candidate? (A baptized -uncatechized (Catholic or non-Catholic), or baptized-previously catechized person.)

- Participation in a three-month Candidacy Instructional Period: Candidates must complete the minimum of one period (however more time may be needed depending on individual circumstances)
- Candidates will enter into one of the following sessions (which will conclude with the celebration of Confirmation and First Eucharist):
 - January – Easter Vigil: Confirmation and First Eucharist at the Easter Vigil
 - May – August 15: Confirmation/First Eucharist on the Feast of the Assumption
 - September- November: Confirmation/First Eucharist on Feast of Christ the King
- Bi-monthly meetings with Parish Mentors
- Group Meetings: will be held two times a month in the evening Sessions will focus on doctrinal topics so as to help give the candidate a basic understanding of the Catholic expression of Christianity. .

What is the Period of Mystagogia?

Mystagogia is a period designated for post-baptismal catechesis of the neophytes (newly baptized). They are held during the Easter Season for the newly-baptized (although those who came into full communion with the Church are welcomed as well) up to Pentecost. Sessions are held two times a month and facilitated by the RCIA Director.



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“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. . You did not choose me but I chose you”
John 15: 12-14,16

Please return the following information to the parish office or place in the collection basket.

I am interested in the RCIA

Name _____

Address _____

Email/ Phone _____

Non-Baptized _____ *Baptized* _____

Religious Affiliation _____

