

Are you thinking of becoming Catholic?



The Lord's Call...



The Lord invites us to salvation and intimate union with Him, through the Catholic Church, leading to eternal life. "Repent, and believe in the Gospel. Come follow me." (Mark 1:15). This journey of conversion is a complete turning of our whole life to God, through Jesus Christ, whose death and Resurrection secured eternal life for all who seek Truth. It is a bonding with the Lord and the human community beginning with the rebirth of baptism, and continuing in the solemn celebration of the Eucharist, the source and summit of the Catholic faith. "Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb" (Mass Communion Rite).

If you are an adult who has never been baptized, a non-Catholic who has been baptized in another Christian denomination, or a baptized Catholic who did not continue on to First Communion and Confirmation, we invite you to enter upon this path of conversion in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).

*You have made us for yourself, O Lord,
and our heart is restless
until it finds its rest in you.*

– St. Augustine

The Process...

At Nativity, the RCIA is an eight-month series of weekly classes in preparation for reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion at Easter, followed by another month of continued study. Adults explore the treasures of our Catholic faith. They learn about the person of Jesus and to develop an intimate friendship with our Savior through prayer, scripture study, exploration of Catholic beliefs and practices, Eucharistic worship, and fellowship. The journey is marked by milestones along the way, public celebrations of a deepening acceptance of the Lord's call.

The Classes...



Classes will be held Mondays, 7:30-9:00 p.m., beginning September 26, in the O'Hare Center directly behind the church.

Our classes are small and relaxed, with ample opportunity for individual attention. They are led by specially trained parishioners with assistance from St. Patrick seminarians and Nativity clergy. We will accept new inquirers throughout the fall. To enroll, simply show up at one of our classes and introduce yourself. There is no obligation, and you are free to drop out at any time. All materials will be provided. Eventually, you will need to find a sponsor (we can help you), and, if you have been baptized, your baptismal certificate.

RCIA

(Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

at the Church of the Nativity

Outline of the RCIA Year 2016-2017...

Inquiry Period, September-October. This is a time of no fixed duration or structure, a time of informal inquiry and introduction.

First Step: Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens, November. This rite, held at a Sunday Mass in the fall (exact date to be decided on by class) marks the beginning of a more formal period of preparation. The non-baptized are enrolled as catechumens, a term from the early Church for those who are being prepared for baptism. The baptized, referred to as candidates, are called to continuing conversion. All participants express, and the Church accepts, their intention to follow Christ more closely.

Period of Catechumenate, November-February. A time for nurturing and growth of the catechumens' and the candidates' faith and conversion through readings and instruction.

Second Step: Rite of Election, First Sunday of Lent, March 5. As Lent begins, the catechumens' names are written into the Book of the Elect, expressing their desire to receive the sacraments. The archbishop, on behalf of the whole Church, accepts them among the elect. This rite is held at St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco.

Period of Purification and Enlightenment, Lent to Easter. The elect, the baptized candidates, and the whole parish prepare for Easter

in a time of deepening reflection, penance, and prayer, which is the purpose of Lent. Monsignor Otellini will meet privately with each member of the class. On the final three Sundays of Lent, the RCIA will be prayed over at Mass, and will be formally presented with the Creed and Lord's Prayer as further steps toward their entrance into the Church. Holy Week, which begins on Palm Sunday, April 9, recalls the final week of Christ's life, and is an intense week of preparation for the RCIA, including a rehearsal in church.

Third Step: Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation, Easter Vigil, April 15.

This is the pinnacle of the liturgical year, in whose candle-lit splendor the Risen Jesus appears anew in each Christian's soul, and into His loving embrace new Catholic disciples are welcomed. The elect will be baptized, and both the elect and candidates will be confirmed and receive the Risen Christ in Communion for the first time.



Period of Postbaptismal Catechesis or Mystagogia, April-May. The newly initiated enter into full participation in the Christian community by means of continued catechesis, regular celebration of the Sunday Eucharist, and in invitation to spread God's love in service to others.

For Further Information...

Please contact the rectory: (650) 323-7914

Or Charlotte Pace: (650) 325-6978
cpace@stanford.edu

Or simply show up at one of our classes, Mondays beginning September 26, 7:30 p.m., O'Hare Center (directly behind the church).

There is no obligation, and participants are free to drop out at any time. Those participants who are fairly certain they want to continue on to receive the sacraments at Easter are asked to attend classes regularly, so that they are well-prepared to take these serious steps with full understanding and conviction.

Note: Catholic adults who need only the Sacrament of Confirmation enroll in a two-day program in the archdiocese (after conferring with the parish) and are confirmed by a bishop either in the fall or spring. They do not attend RCIA unless they want to. Also welcome to our classes are Catholics who simply wish to know more about their faith.

Nativity welcomes you.

Church of the Nativity
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