

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE  
INFORMATION BELOW  
AND RETURN IT TO THE  
CHURCH OFFICE.**

**Today's Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_

**State/Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I am:**

**Non-Catholic.....( )**

**Baptized .....( )**

**Catholic .....( )**

**( ) Please have someone  
call me at \_\_\_\_\_**

**S  
M  
M**



**St. Margaret Mary Church  
1050 Robert Blvd.  
Slidell, Louisiana**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,**

**CONTACT:  
SMM Evangelization  
Center  
(985)649-3055**

**BECOMING  
CATHOLIC**

**R.C.I.A.  
Rite of Christian  
Initiation for  
Adults**



**Any person who is  
interested in learning  
more about the Catholic  
Faith is invited to call St.  
Margaret Mary  
Evangelization Center.**

## Becoming a Catholic

Most Catholics trace their religious roots back to their Baptism into the Catholic Christian community as an infant. They grew up in Catholic families, and after proper preparation, came to share in the full sacramental life of the Church through the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation.

Baptized Christians of other traditions, and un-baptized adults enter into the Catholic Church by undergoing a period of formation in the teaching, spirituality and life of the Church called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).

## What is RCIA?

RCIA is not the same as “instruction” classes were years ago in the Church. It is still relatively new to us, but its roots reach back into the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries of our Church when the catechumenate was an important and daily part of the life of the Christian community.

The goal of RCIA is to foster or deepen one’s conversion in Jesus Christ and the kingdom He proclaims through the community of the Church. It includes sponsorship by Catholics in the local parish, prayer, worship, teaching the gospel, catechesis (handing on the teachings of the Church) and direct contact with the community.

RCIA is a spiritual renewal, not only for those seeking to become Catholics but also for the welcoming community.

## The Face of RCIA

RCIA describes the initiation of adults as a “spiritual journey.” This journey is divided into 5 distinct stages:

### **Inquiry Period:**

During this time, the basic gospel message is proclaimed, and inquirers are able to reflect on their lives in light of the message of Christ. This is the time to ask questions about Christ and the Church. It is a time of discernment as to whether or not he or she wants to enter the catechumenate.

### **Catechumenate:**

A period of “apprenticeship” in Christian living during which the catechumens change their hearts, minds and lives through lessons, liturgy and scripture.

### **Purification and Enlightenment**

This coincides with the season of Lent and involves the final preparations for the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter. The elect, along with the entire community, journey toward Easter by deepening commitment to the Lord and praying for the removal of obstacles to spiritual growth.

### **Sacraments of Initiation:**

In the most elaborate and joyous celebration of the Church year, the Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist – are conferred upon the elect at the Easter Vigil. Those already baptized are received into full communion with the Church through the reception of Confirmation and Eucharist. The entire community of faith joyfully welcomes the new members while renewing their own baptismal vows.

### **Mystagogia**

This is a time of ongoing formation of all Christians, particularly newly initiated ones (the “neophytes”). Conversion is a life-long process and during this period, neophytes penetrate the deeper meaning of the Easter sacraments and become more fully immersed in the life of the Catholic Christian community.



## Who is RCIA for?

- ❖ Any adult, teen, or child over 7 years old who is considering becoming a Catholic.
- ❖ Any adult, teen or child over 7 years old baptized in another Christian Church who is considering becoming a Catholic.
- ❖ Any baptized Catholic adult (over 17 years of age) seeking the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- ❖ Any baptized Catholic who wishes to support those who are considering the Catholic Faith.

## How long does it take to become a Catholic?

RCIA is not a program, but a process. It is the means of the Church to minister to those who seek membership. The Church recognizes that some will need more time than others to prepare for the lifetime of commitment that comes with initiation into the Church.

## Are you interested in learning more about the Catholic Church?

**CALL US!**

