

## *Learning About the Catholic Faith*

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Catholicism is not primarily a set of doctrines, an ethical guide, or a way to belong to a group. It is first of all a **radical encounter with Jesus Christ**, the Son of God and our Lord and Savior. Centered on an intimate relationship with Christ, we then learn more about what Catholics believe (our Creed), how Catholics worship (Liturgy and Sacraments), how Catholics behave (Morality) and how Catholics pray.



Every part of our faith comes from and points back to Our Lord Jesus Christ. Joining the Church is

**more an apprenticeship, even a “marriage,” than anything else.** We join the family of those who love and serve Jesus, seeking to know Him now and be received into His Father’s kingdom for eternity. **Being Catholic is all about becoming saints!**



“**D**on’t hesitate to trust Him; meet Him, listen to Him, and love Him with all your heart. In your friendship with Him, you will experience the real joy that gives meaning and value to existence.”

Pope Benedict XVI, 4/20/07

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## **Becoming Catholic:**

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### *The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*

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*“How beautiful it is to be Christian. It is not a burden to be carried ... but it is like having wings.”*

*Pope Benedict XVI, 8/17/05*



## “Come and See!”

Joining the Catholic Church is the **best decision you will ever make**—it helps you form and deepen a relationship with Jesus Christ that can transform your life and put you on the **path to sainthood**. Being Catholic puts a person in touch with all that is beautiful, true and good from God. Being Catholic places us in a living and life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church founded on the Apostles. Being Catholic supports you with a rich tradition and history : introducing you to treasures of art and culture, intellect and reasoning, spirituality and service. Being Catholic gives you a mission and purpose befitting your dignity as a child of God. Being Catholic unites you to a family striving for excellence and holiness.

## *The Rite of Christian Initiation*

The process for joining the Catholic Church is called the **Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults** (or Children). In this process, the faith is explained, practiced and discussed. We carefully cover the major components of our faith so that each person, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, can discern if joining the Church is an informed and free decision.

The RCIA (or RCIC for children over 8) is designed for:

- ***People who are not baptized in any Christian tradition***
- ***People who have been baptized in another Christian tradition***
- ***People who were baptized in the Catholic Church but received little or no formation and no other Sacraments after Baptism***

When an adult or older child is received into the Catholic Church, they **receive all three Sacraments of Initiation at once: Baptism (if not already Baptized), Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.**

There is no obligation to join the Church when you attend our RCIA meetings. Those people who wish to join the Church will, after prayer and guidance, **receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil Mass (April 12, 2020).**

Those Christians who are divorced and remarried will need to discuss their situation with our pastor, Fr. Jeff Lewis, before reception into the Church. Please contact Fr. Lewis for more information.

## *RCIA Meetings*

RCIA Meetings are in the St. Mary Parish Office in the Mary/Martha Room. We meet on Tuesday nights from 6:30 until 8:00pm, beginning September 10.

If you have a child who wants to join the Catholic Church, please contact Marie Bricher. She will work out a schedule of meetings with interested families each year.

The RCIA process usually takes one or two years of preparation (depending on your background, questions and needs). The usual time for people to be received into the Catholic Church is at the Easter Vigil service, the night before Easter Sunday.

Please contact Marie Bricher if you wish to discuss particular issues or ask specific questions . She is more than willing to meet with you one on one. She can be reached at 509-928-3210, ext 111 or [mbricher@dioceseofspokane.org](mailto:mbricher@dioceseofspokane.org).



***“If you follow Jesus, you are never alone because you are part of the Church, which is a great family...”***

Pope Benedict XVI, 11/27/05