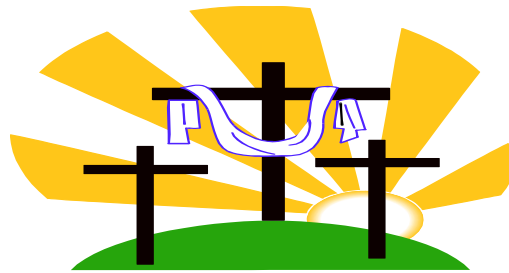


R. C. I. A.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

2011 - 2012



St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church

A Prayer Before Study, by St. Thomas Aquinas

**Bestow upon me, O God,
an understanding that knows you,
wisdom in finding you,
a way of life that is pleasing to you,
perseverance that faithfully waits for you
and confidence that I shall embrace you at the last.
Amen.**



The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, or R.C.I.A., is the ordinary process for unbaptized persons to enter the Catholic Church. It is also for those baptized in other denominations that wish to make a profession of faith in the Catholic Church. Additionally, those who are baptized Catholic but have not practiced their faith or need further sacraments may also go through the R.C.I.A. process. And we have occasional “students” who attend simply to deepen their knowledge of our Faith.

The goals of the R.C.I.A. process are two-fold, though neither can be separated from the other. We seek a knowledge and understanding of the teachings of the Catholic Faith. We will also pursue an ever-deepening relationship with Jesus Christ. Both culminate in an experience of contemplating of the Face of Christ, particularly through the Mass.

This journey of faith does not take place in a vacuum. The priests here at St. Robert’s, the R.C.I.A. team members, and the parish sponsors will walk this path with you, always respecting where you have come from but being ready to assist you in any way that is helpful. Specific members of St. Robert’s parish as well as the parish at large will also be praying for you during your faith journey.

The R.C.I.A. process is an effort to restore the experience of early Christianity which emphasized personal conversion in the context of a living, believing, and praying community. Together with learning about Catholicism and spiritual formation, various “rites” will occur during the coming year to mark the stages of our faith journey.

With great joy, we join you in your journey of faith. May the Father, who cherishes you and created you in the palm of his hand, may He bring you to a deeper love and knowledge of Himself, in the mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and in the call to deep holiness through the Holy Spirit. ***It is for this purpose, we were created!***



The R. C. I. A. Team

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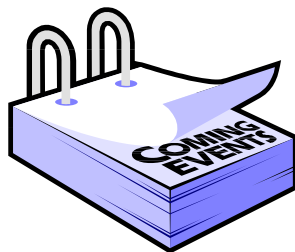
Brett Holtz

Beth Jareske

Carolyn Nelson

Mary Ann Pavich

Alice Pumilia



R. C. I. A. Calendar
September 21, 2011 - April 11, 2012
(Journey of Faith, Journey into Love)

Period of Precatechumenate

Sep. 21	Introductory Session
Sep. 28	God's Call and Our Response
Oct. 5	Scripture and Tradition: An Overview
Oct. 12	Scripture and Salvation History
Oct. 19	The Incarnation and the Life of Christ
Oct. 26	The Church, the Mystical Body of Christ
Nov. 2	Video by Fr. Robert Barron
<i>Nov. 6</i>	<i>(Sunday) Rite of Acceptance - 9:30 am Mass</i>

Period of the Catechumenate

Nov. 9	Tour of the Church and Sanctuary (1/3)
Nov. 16	The Meaning of the Eucharist (2/3) + Holy Orders
<i>Nov. 23</i>	<i>No Class - Thanksgiving Break</i>

- Nov. 30 Mary and the Incarnation
- Dec. 7 Liturgical Year & Holy Days
 Meaning of Advent (Prepare for the Lord)
- Dec. 14 Christmas Party (Mainelli Center)
- Dec. 21 No Class - Christmas Break*
- Dec. 28 No Class - Christmas Break*
- 2012**
- Jan. 4 Church History - Peter (video)
- Jan. 11 The Parts of the Mass (3/3)
- Jan. 18 Prayer
- Jan. 25 The Saints
- Feb. 1 Ten Commandments, Two Great Commandments
- Feb. 8 Moral Decision Making in the Catholic Tradition
- Feb. 15 The Virtues and Freedom
- Feb. 22 Ash Wednesday - Lenten Season Begins
 Mass & Ashes, Meaning of Lent
- Feb. 26 (1st Sun. of Lent) Rite of Sending - 9:30 am Mass
 Dinner - 5:30 pm (Mainelli Center)
 The Rite of Election - at the Cathedral - 7:30 pm*

Period of Purification and Enlightenment (Lent)

- Feb. 29 Sacraments & Sacramentals (Overview)
- Mar. 7 The Creed

- Mar. 10* *First Scrutiny (3rd Sunday of Lent) - 5:30 pm Mass (Saturday)*
- Mar. 14 Baptism and Confirmation
- Mar. 18* *Second Scrutiny (4th Sun. of Lent) - 9:30 am Mass*
- Mar. 21 Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation
Anointing of the Sick
- Mar. 25* *Third Scrutiny (5th Sun. of Lent) - 11:00 am Mass*
- Mar. 28 Parish Mission (7-8 pm)
The Paschal Mystery and Holy Week
- Mar. 31 Retreat - Mainelli Center (Saturday)
- Apr. 4* *No Class - Holy Week*
- Apr. 7* *Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil!*

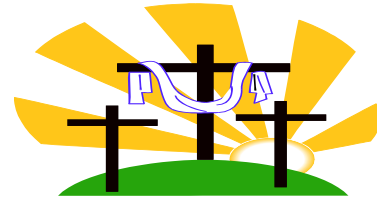
Period of Mystagogy

- Apr. 11 Closing Mass & Pot Luck Dinner



R. C. I. A. Assigned Readings

"Life in Christ: A Catholic Catechism for Adults"



"There was a man named John sent by God, who came as a witness to testify to the light... The real light which gives light to every man was coming into the world." (John 1:6-9)

*We, too, are called "to be witness to the Light."
(Cardinal O'Connor)*

2011

- Sep. 21 Introductory Session
"...By living in such a way that...[we] diffuse goodness into the world."
- Sep. 28 God's Call and Our Response
Chapters 1-3, pp. 1-20
"What God seeks now is that you seek Him."
- Oct. 5 Scripture and Tradition: An Overview
Chapters 4-7, pp. 21-47
"The New Testament writings...have the power to change your life."
- Oct. 12 Scriptures and Salvation History
Same as above
- Oct. 19 The Incarnation and the Life of Christ
Chapters 8-13, pp. 51-92
"Who the Father is, is revealed in his Son, Jesus."
- Oct. 26 The Church, the Mystical Body of Christ
Chapters 14-17, pp. 95-123. Also chapter 28, pp. 205-211
"...The Church is a mystery...imbued with the hidden presence of God."
- Nov. 2 Video by Fr. Robert Barron
No readings for class.
- Nov. 9 Tour of the Church and Sanctuary
No readings for class.

- Nov. 16 The Meaning of the Mass, the Sacrament of Holy Orders
Chapter 19 (part), pp. 133-136; and chapter 25, pp. 175-183
"The more...attentive we are at Mass, the greater will be the intensity of Christ's presence in the world."
- Nov. 30 Mary and the Incarnation
Chapter 18, pp. 125-129
"As Mother of the Christ whose life we live, Mary is also the mother of the whole Church."
- Dec. 7 Liturgical Year & Holy Days, Advent
Pages 33, 136-138

2012

- Jan. 4 Church History - Peter
No readings for class
- Jan. 11 The Parts of the Mass
No readings for class.
- Jan. 18 Prayer
Pages 60-61, 301-303
"Prayer is...you seeking and communing with the living God..."
- Jan. 25 The Saints
Pages 110, 292-293
"We honor [the saints] as heroes."
- Feb. 1 Ten Commandments, Two Great Commandments
Chapters 34-39, pp. 251-289
"The commandments express how we should live in response to God's love with God and our neighbor."
- Feb. 8 Moral Decision Making in the Catholic Tradition
Chapter 31-32, pp. 229-242
"Christ has told us that we cannot separate the love of God from the love of neighbor."
- Feb .15 Virtues and Freedom
Chapter 33, pp. 243-250

- Feb. 22 Ash Wednesday - Lent
No readings for class
- Feb. 29 Sacraments and Sacramentals (overview)
Chapter 20, pp. 139-143; and chapter 30, pp. 223-225
"Sacraments are...the continuing presence of Christ in the world."
- Mar. 7 The Creed
Chapter 40, pp. 291-300 (also pp. 70-71 and pp. 303-304)
"I believe in God, the Father almighty."
- Mar. 14 Baptism and Confirmation
Chapters 21-22, pp. 145-159
"This mystery is the very center and culmination of Christian life."
- Mar. 21 Sacraments of Reconciliation, Sick
Chapter 26-27, pp. 185-203
"Reconciliation is a personal encounter with Jesus Christ represented by the priest..."
- Mar. 28 Paschal Mystery, Holy Week
Pages 79-80, 87



Basic Catholic Prayers

Sign of the Cross

We make the Sign of the Cross before and after many of our prayers. It marks us as Christians by identifying the central mysteries of our faith: the mystery of the Blessed Trinity and the mystery of the Incarnation and the Redemption.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Our Father (the Lord's Prayer)

The Our Father is the oldest of Christian prayers, going back to Jesus Christ Himself, who in Matthew 6:9-13, taught his disciples to pray in these words.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary

The first part of the Hail Mary is taken from greetings by the angel Gabriel and Mary's cousin Elizabeth (in the Gospel of Luke).

Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed are thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Glory Be

Similar to the invocation of the Sign of the Cross, the Glory Be is a prayer of praise to the Blessed Trinity.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Grace Before Meals

Bless us, O Lord, and these Thy gifts, which we are about to receive from Thy bounty, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Act of Contrition

This prayer is usually associated with the Sacrament of Reconciliation but is often prayed daily by many Catholics as part of their prayer life.

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell, but most of all because I have offended Thee, my God, who art all-good and deserving of my love.

I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to confess my sins, to do penance, and to amend my life.

Amen.

The Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help of sought thy intercession was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O virgin of Virgins, my mother. To thee I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions but in thy mercy, hear and answer me. Amen.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

**Come Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your faithful,
and enkindle in us the fire of your divine love.
Send forth your spirit and we shall be created,
and you shall renew the face of the earth.**

**O God,
Who instructed the hearts of the faithful
by the light of your divine Spirit,
grant us by that same spirit
to be truly wise
and to rejoice in your holy consolation
through the same Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

Prayer of St. Ignatius Loyola

Take, O Lord and receive all
my liberty,
my memory,
my understanding,
my entire will.
All that I have and all that I am,
You have given me.
I surrender it all to You,
to be entirely subject to Your Divine Will.
All that I ask is Your love and Your grace.
With these I will have riches enough,
and desire nothing more. Amen.

Prayer of St. Thomas Aquinas

Grant us grace,
O merciful God,
to desire ardently all that is pleasing to you,
to examine it prudently,
to acknowledge it truthfully,
and to accomplish it perfectly,
for the praise and glory of your name.
Amen

Prayer of Consecration (from Fr. Don)

Jesus, I love you.
I am sorry for my sins.
Thank you for dying on the Cross for me.
You gave your whole self to me.
Help me to give my whole self to you.
I want you to be in my life, in my home, in my business, in my
school, in my recreation, in wherever I am and in whatever I do.

Jesus, I accept You as my Lord, my God, my Savior.
Come now and fill me with your Spirit.
Fill me with your Holy Spirit and send me forth to my family and
my friends to share with them your love and your concern.
Jesus, I love you and I will follow you as your disciple
every day for the rest of my life.
Amen.

Prayer to Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.
Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,
and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts,
by the power of God,
thrust into hell Satan,
and all the evil spirits,
who prowl about the world
seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon,
where there is doubt, faith,
where there is despair, hope,
where there is darkness, light,
and where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much
seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

