

St. Luke's RCIA meets each Wednesday at 7:00pm beginning after Labour Day in September and continuing through Easter. For more information, please contact the parish office or send in the form below.

Name

Address

Phone

RCIA is the Catholic Church's way of forming new disciples of Jesus Christ. It's the way the Catholic Church welcomes new members, but even more important is becoming a disciple of Jesus.

Participating in RCIA is much more than going to classes on Catholicism. It's undergoing a conversion to a new way of life in Christ. Participants learn the Catholic Christian way of life by being in the midst of members of the parish community.

Sessions typically include prayer, instruction on some aspect of the Catholic faith, and small group discussion time. The RCIA is primarily a process filled with hospitality, reflection, scripture study, instruction, discussion, community service, and celebration.



St. Luke's Catholic Church

**1566 Northmount Drive NW
Calgary, AB T2L 0G6**

Phone: 403-282-9488

Fax: 403-282-0502

<http://www.stlukeschurch.ca>

RCIA The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

...Jesus said to them, 'come and see'.
And they did.

John 1:39

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St. Luke's RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is for adults searching and inquiring the Catholic way of life, or for those seeking to complete the initiation process that was started at an earlier time.

RCIA welcomes

- Those who have never been baptized.
- Those baptized in another Christian faith tradition who may be interested in joining the Catholic Church.
- Catholics who were baptized but never confirmed.

The process focuses on Christian initiation of adults through the reception of the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist, celebrated during the Easter vigil.



The Rite of Initiation is the spiritual journey of adults and consists of four continuous periods.

Period of Inquiry

This is a time of informal gathering, for asking questions, an opportunity for the beginnings of faith. At some point, the person may contact a Catholic parish and begin to meet with other adults who are also inquiring about the Catholic faith. These adults, with members of the RCIA team, will take time to ask questions, tell their own stories and connect them with the faith stories found in scripture.

Period of Catechumenate

This begins with the Rite of Acceptance into the order of catechumens. The celebration allows each individual to express, and the Church to accept, their intention to respond to God's call to follow the way of Christ. A more formal study of scripture and the Catholic faith is continued weekly. Each inquirer is accompanied by a sponsor, chosen by the individual or by the parish coordinator, who will provide support throughout the RCIA process.

During this period, the catechumenates and candidates attend a Liturgy of the Word at one of weekly Masses.

Period of Purification and Enlightenment

This coincides with the Lenten preparation for the Easter celebration and the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, First Eucharist). During the celebration of this rite each individual will be officially called to the sacraments by the bishop or by his delegate.

The weeks of Lent are a time of reflection and intense prayer for the newly elect, marked by celebration of the scrutinies and presentations. The sponsors continue to accompany and support the elect in their Lenten preparations.

Period of Mystagogy

For the newly initiated, now called neophytes, the time between Easter and Pentecost is a special opportunity to reflect on the commitment which has been made to the Lord, to the Church, and to the local parish community. This time of unfolding the meaning of the initiation sacraments is called Mystagogy. The Sunday scripture readings, which explain the meaning of the resurrection and of baptism, have special meaning for all new Catholics.

This is not an end in the journey, but a new beginning. The journey of faith lasts a lifetime.



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