

Before RCIA Begins

Welcome! No doubt God has already been at work in your life, drawing you closer to himself and his Church. Please take a look at this page as you may have questions what do I do until classes begin. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me, Kathy Chlan 952.652.6100 ext. 501 (kathyc@holycrossschool.net) or contact Father Barnes at the parish office. We would be happy to talk with you further.

What do I do until RCIA begins?

Sometimes people will inquire about the RCIA/Becoming Catholic process when it is still a long time before the next RCIA year begins (in September). This is not a bad thing--and it reminds us that Jesus is not confined to our timetable. While RCIA is still the best and correct way of investigating the Catholic faith and move toward becoming a Catholic, there are a number of things a person can do prior to RCIA to honor Christ's call and to help enrich the journey of RCIA:

- **Pray.** Incorporate prayer into your daily routine. Prayer is an opening of the mind and heart to God. It is a conversation with the God who made you, loves you infinitely, and wants to converse with you.
 - Step One:** If prayer is new to you, start by saying a simple prayer like "Jesus, I want to know and love you more." each morning when you wake up. Gradually, add more content. Simply speak to God from your heart.
 - Step Two:** Begin incorporating some basic prayers of the Church into your daily routine, like the Lord's Prayer, the Glory Be (Doxology), and, if you are comfortable with it, the Hail Mary. If you would like a print out of these prayers please contact me or you may go to the lnmvre.net website and click under prayers we have them listed out for our religious education students on Wednesday nights. Don't just say them, pray them!
 - Step Three:** For those more familiar with Christian prayer, you may want to explore the Liturgy of the Hours, which are the daily prayers of the Church. You could also familiarize yourself with and begin praying the Rosary.
- **Read the Bible.** Like with prayer, make reading and meditating on the Scriptures--even just a few verses--part of each day. If you don't have a Bible, use an online one, you can find a link on the parish website (www.stncc.net) or the RE website www.lnmvire.net website
 - **Step One:** If you haven't read the Bible before, start with one of the *Gospels*--Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John--which are accounts of Jesus' earthly life.
 - Step Two:** After you've become familiar with the Gospels, we would suggest reading Genesis (the first book of the Bible) and Romans.
 - Step Three:** If you've read the Gospels, Genesis, and Romans, it's time to get yourself a Catholic Bible and begin familiarizing yourself with the different books. We will have a Catholic Bible available to you at the beginning of RCIA classes as well.
- **Attend Mass.** You don't have to be Catholic to attend Mass! Yes, it can be confusing, especially if you have never been before, but there is great value in coming and encountering Jesus in the Mass. You can ask questions by calling or asking after mass those you may know. During the mass you can just follow what other people do. The only thing the Church asks of non-Catholics is, when it comes time to receive Communion, feel free to come forward. When you near the front of the line, please indicate that you are not Catholic by crossing your arms over your chest. This will signal to the person distributing Communion to offer you a simple blessing.
- **Talk with Catholics.** No one does Christianity on their own! If you know faithful, practicing Catholics, talk with them! Tell them of your interest in Catholicism, and don't be afraid to identify any doubts or hesitations you may have. Ask them why their Catholic faith is so important to them. Ask them to pray for you.
- **Read the Catechism.** *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* is the standard book which presents Catholic teaching in summary form. You can find a link at our website as well. One will also be made available to you the first night of classes
- **Attend Thursday night Sept. 8th at 7:00pm to learn more, Pre-registrations helpful, but walk-ins are welcome**