



**The following are the steps in the RCIA process as you consider joining the Catholic Church.**

**I. INQUIRY** – RCIA process is explained and there is an opportunity to ask questions about the Catholic Faith. Meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month. Begins with Orientation for first-timers – followed by short presentation and discussion that all Inquirers can attend.

**II. Conference** –meeting with our Director (Helen Young) to answer further questions you may have about the RCIA process, and to learn how to better meet your needs. [hyoung@ctking.com](mailto:hyoung@ctking.com)

**Rite of Acceptance and Welcoming (RAW)** – This is the first time that the inquirers publicly as a group declare their faith before the parish community. The Church in turn accepts and welcomes them as people who will continue their journey to become its members. A sponsor accompanies each inquirer and provides support and companionship for the rest of the RCIA process. You can let the Director know in your meeting if you have someone in mind for your sponsor. **[This Rite marks the end of the Pre-Catechumenate and the beginning of the Catechumenate.]**

**III. CATECHUMENATE** – On a weekly basis the Catechumenate meets to hear about and discuss the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Those who are not baptized are called – **Catechumens**

Those who are baptized are called - **Candidates**

**Rite of Election** – The Catechumens and Candidates are presented to the Archbishop and he accepts them on behalf of the Church, encouraging continued conversion as they prepare to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. Those who are not baptized are now called – **Elect**. **[This Rite marks the end of the Catechumenate and the beginning of Purification & Enlightenment.]**

**IV. PURIFICATION & ENLIGHTENMENT** – Coincides with the season of Lent. This is a time of spiritual preparation through prayer and reflection. You will continue to meet weekly on Monday nights and designated Sunday Masses.

**RCIA Lenten Retreat** – Lent is a time for the whole Church to prepare for the celebration of the Easter mysteries. For you particularly, it is important to take time away (to retreat) from your daily routine and prepare for your reception into the Catholic Church.

**Easter Vigil / Celebration of The Rite Of Christian Initiation** – This celebration of receiving the Sacraments of Baptism (if this applies to you), Confirmation and Holy Communion takes place at the Easter Vigil Mass with the Archbishop. This is a time of great joy and celebration as you are now fully initiated into the Catholic Church. **[This Rite marks the end of Purification & Enlightenment and the beginning of Mystagogy.]**

**V. MYSTAGOGY: LIVING THE MYSTERIES** – A time to reflect, appreciate more deeply, and unfold the meaning of the initiation sacraments. You will learn more about ministry opportunities at Christ the King and how you can share the talents and gifts God has blessed you with to build the Kingdom.