

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

St. Paul the Apostle Parish Burlington

### **Who is RCIA intended for?**

- Non-Catholic individuals who want to know more about Catholicism with an interest in full acceptance into the faith.
- Those baptized in another Christian faith who seek conversion to the Catholic faith through a Profession of Faith and participation in the Catholic sacraments.
- Those who were baptized Catholic as a child but never received religious education, First Communion or Confirmation.

### **I wish to pursue RCIA in order for my child to attend Catholic elementary school within Halton region. How do I do that?**

The RCIA program is not intended to be a pathway to get a child in Catholic School.

Those who are not Catholic and seeking admission to a Catholic School in Halton may be admitted to the RCIA program if they themselves desire to become Catholic. The RCIA involves a significant investment of time and commitment and is a life-long conversion to becoming a practicing Roman Catholic; this requires leaving of any former religious or faith affiliation. This is a big decision and cannot be taken lightly. In your discussions with a member of our pastoral team, we can help you better understand what is involved and if this is something that is best for you and your family.

### **Why is RCIA described as a process and not a program or course?**

Faith development takes time and each person who enters RCIA is on a personal journey that reflects their personal circumstances, background, experiences and desires. Although RCIA is done in community with others, each person will understand and respond to the process in a unique way. RCIA does follow a general calendar, however not all who participate start and end at the same time or in the same manner.

### **What does the process look like?**

The process is weekly meetings (usually on Wednesday evenings) and weekly Mass attendance. Other events occur throughout the year to build community and faith. Generally, the RCIA process begins formally in late September and concludes at Easter. The process however, never really ends, as all Catholics are called to continually grow in our relationship with Christ throughout one's lifetime.

### **What if I cannot commit to the scheduled sessions and planned events that are part of the RCIA process?**

RCIA is a commitment unto itself. It is necessary to set aside the required time as much as possible. Some flexibility can be granted, however overall commitment is expected. The pastoral team can provide further guidance regarding commitment if needed.

### **Is there a fee to participate in RCIA?**

No. The process includes some materials which are provided by the parish. Offertory contributions are appreciated but not required.

### **Is RCIA for adults only or could my child participate?**

RCIA is an adult program for anyone 18 or older. Children who are not baptized Catholic or have not received their sacraments of First Communion or Confirmation participate in another process. The Pastoral Minister can assist with information in this circumstance.

*If you still have questions or need more information please contact our Pastoral Minister, Arden Ouellette, [aouellette@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:aouellette@hamiltondiocese.com) or call 905-332-5115.*