

**RCIA
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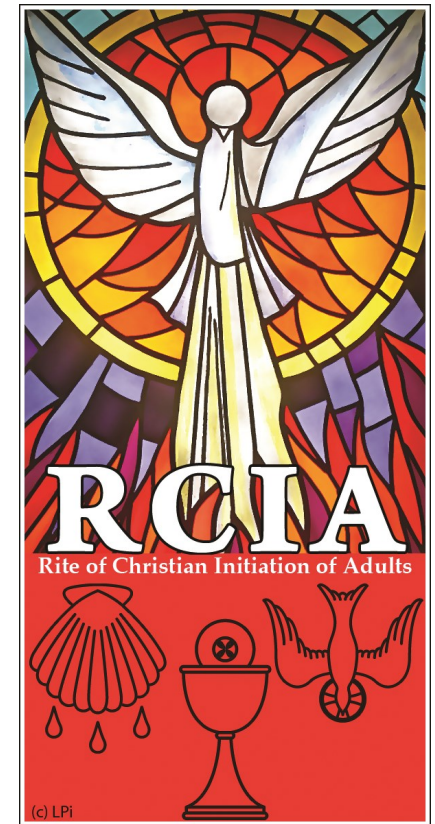
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St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
Catholic Church

Rite of Christian Initiation
(RCIA)
Sponsor's Brochure



Answers to the most
frequently asked questions about
being an RCIA Sponsor

The Bible was composed in such
a way that as beginners
mature, its meaning
grows with them.
-Augustine of Hippo

Q. What is RCIA?

'RCIA' stands for Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

It is initially a process of inquiring into the Catholic faith tradition, followed by a period of discernment, and then the celebration of the sacraments of Initiation.

Q. Who participates in the RCIA process?

Adults inquiring about becoming Catholic and who either are:

- Not baptized (catechumen)
- Baptized non-Catholic (candidate)
- Baptized Catholic but have not received First Communion or Confirmation

Q. Who will I sponsor?

The RCIA coordinator and the RCIA team members will meet with you, learn something about you and suggest which catechumen/candidate would be a good match for you to sponsor

Q. What does a sponsor do?

A sponsor:

- Attends an orientation
- Listens and shares ideas to support the catechumen's or candidate's spiritual journey
- Participates in RCIA group catechesis sessions
- Attends major celebrations including:
 - Rite of Acceptance and Welcoming
 - Rite of Sending
 - Rite of Election
 - Three Scrutinies
 - Saturday Retreat
 - Easter Vigil

RCIA meets on scheduled Sunday's from 10:15am-11:15am. Sponsors are asked to attend meetings and be available to meet informally at other times with the catechumen/candidate as the two of you wish.

Q. Does the sponsor need to be an expert on Catholicism?

No. A sponsor is not an expert; just a Catholic who loves his/her faith. It is also an opportunity to increase your knowledge of the Catholic faith.

Q. Am I qualified to be an RCIA sponsor?

Yes, if you:

- Are a practicing Catholic
- Are at least 16 years old
- Have received the sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation)
- If married, your marriage is in good standing with the Church
- Are committed to listening and supporting an RCIA catechumen/candidate

Q. Who guides the RCIA process?

The clergy of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church who confer the sacraments, celebrate the rites, and serve as a spiritual resource; the Deacon, the Director of Religious Education, the RCIA Coordinator and RCIA Team Members.

Q. Who do I contact if I would like to learn more about RCIA or becoming a sponsor?

Please call or send an email to the RCIA Coordinator or the Director of Religious Education.

