

WELCOME!

IHM

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Opening
Prayer

Prayer of welcome &
blessing by Fr. Jim
Singler, IHM Pastor.

After prayer, please
help yourself to food
& drink!

Guest Speaker

Fr. Jim Singler, Pastor IHM

Introductions

- Please share:
 - Name(s) of family members.
 - Share a little bit about yourself (family, work/school, hobbies, etc.).
 - What draws you to the RCIA process at this time in your life?

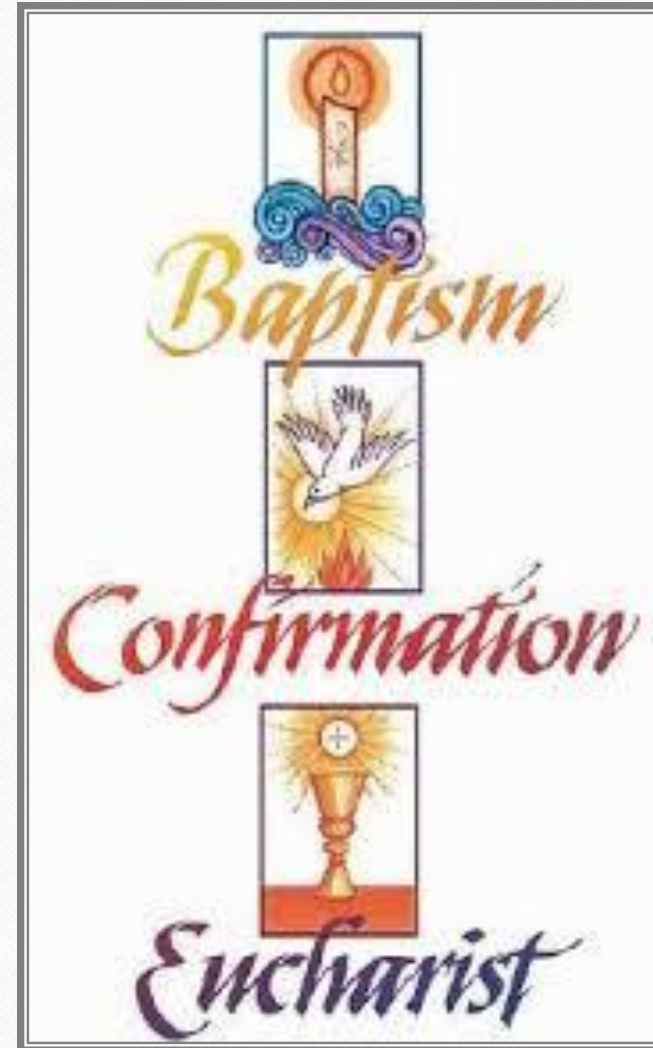


What is the RCIA?

- The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults:
 - The way in which the Catholic Church invites and forms individuals in the Catholic Christian faith.
 - The invitation is both personal, and communal. Jesus called individuals, but called them into community.
 - The process leads to full initiation into the life of Christ and the Catholic Church by receiving the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.

Who is the RCIA designed for?

- For unbaptized individuals seeking to be initiated into the Catholic-Christian faith.
- For baptized Christians looking to join the Catholic Church.
- For Catholics who have never received the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.
 - For Catholics who have not been Baptized by their 7th birthday, or around the 2nd grade.



The 4 Stages/Periods of the RCIA

- Period of Inquiry
- Period of the Catechumenate
- Period of Purification & Enlightenment
- Period of Mystagogy

Period of Inquiry

(Now-First Sunday of Advent)

- Time to “inquire” about the Catholic Christian faith; called “inquirers.”
- Focus is on the larger story of faith, and conversion to the person of Jesus Christ.
- No formal commitments are made, other than an openness to explore faith and spirituality together.



Period of the Catechumenate

(First Sunday of Advent-First Sunday of Lent)



- Begins with the Rite of Acceptance for the unbaptized (now called “Catechumens”), or the Rite of Welcome for those baptized (now called “Candidates”).
- First commitment to begin the process of entering fully into the Catholic Church.
- More intense study of the Scriptures, and formation in Catholic Doctrine.
- Begin to partake in the Rite of Dismissal at Mass.

Period of Purification & Enlightenment (First Sunday of Lent-Easter Vigil)

- Begins with the Rite of Election for the unbaptized (now called the “Elect”) and the Rite of Continuing Conversion for the baptized Candidates.
- Begins a more intense period of prayer and reflection for reception of the sacraments at the Easter Vigil.
- Rite of dismissal continues, but focus is more on prayer than formal “catechesis,” or teaching.
- Special prayer experiences for the Elect include the 3 Lenten Scrutinies, and the Penitential Rite and First Reconciliation for Candidates.



Period of Mystagogy (Easter Season-Pentecost)



Jesus speaks in the silence of the mystery of the Eucharist and reminds us each time that following him means going out of ourselves and making our lives not something we 'possess,' but a gift to him and to others.

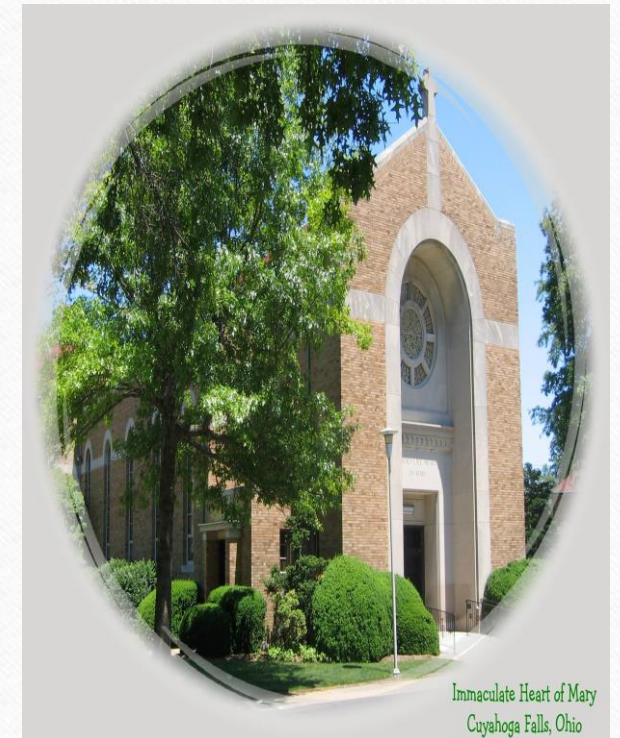
— Pope Francis —

AZ QUOTES

- The newly fully initiated Elect and Candidates are now called “Neophytes.”
- Neophytes now participate fully in the Mass; there is no Rite of Dismissal.
- The focus is on continuing conversion and discipleship.

RCIA at IHM

- Gathering together at the 10am Mass. (Rite of Dismissal starting in the Period of the Catechumenate)
- Meeting in the McIntyre Room after Mass and concluding by 12:15:
 - To reflect on the scriptures.
 - To discuss various Catholic Christian topics and doctrines in small and large group.
 - To hear faith testimonies from various parish staff and parishioners.
- Reading and praying over the upcoming Mass readings, and Catholic Updates, and private journaling.
- Participating in various liturgical rites and celebrations throughout the process.



Closing Prayer

by Thomas Merton

My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going.

I do not see the road ahead of me.

I cannot know for certain where it will end.
nor do I really know myself...

But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you...

And I know that if I do this you will lead me
by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore will I trust you always
Though I may seem to be lost...

I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me...

Amen.