## "I'd like to know more about the Catholic Church but I don't know how to get started."

If you are already a Catholic or if you are interested in becoming Catholic than the process called the "Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults" or RCIA is for you. The process is open to all adults who may never have been baptized, baptized but not confirmed, confirmed but have been separated from the Church or those Catholics who just want to learn more about the Church and her rich history and practices.



## **R.C.I.A.** consists of four main stages:

- Period of Inquiry: We become acquainted with the Roman Catholic Church, we see in our own life how we connect to Church, we examine basic Catholic beliefs, and we decide if we want to become Catholic.
- Period of Catechumenate: This is the first stage of commitment that leads to full membership. We discuss Catholic prayer, Reconciliation, Mary and the Saints.
- Period of Enlightenment and Purification: This is the time during Lent when we deepen our spiritual commitment through works of charity, prayer and fasting. We will discuss Confirmation, the Mass and Baptism. This stage ends with Easter and the Rites of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.
- Period of Mystagogy: This stage lasts from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday justice, works of mercy and being an active parishioner.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning about the Catholic faith or in joining the Catholic Church, the first RCIA meeting is on September 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Parish Hall at 7 pm. We will offer two sessions this year with the first starting September 2<sup>nd</sup> and ending November 18<sup>th</sup> and the second session starting January 6<sup>th</sup> and ending March 24<sup>th</sup> (attend one session). There is no cost and no pre-registration – just show up! Please call the church office or Joey Hebert at 658-4872 for more details.

We also need lots of help with supporting those entering the Church so if your calling is to sponsor, bake cookies, witnessing your faith or praying for our candidates please contact Joey or the church office and answer the call.