

**ST. PAUL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**231 Second Street, Clifton, NJ 07011**

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**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION  
FOR CHILDREN/TEENS (R.C.I.A.)**

*Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." Mark 10:14-15*

***MOTHER CABRINI CENTER  
97 WASHINGTON AVE.  
CLIFTON, NJ 07011***

***PHONE: 973-340-1300, EXT. 125 OR 126***



***Welcome to St. Paul's Rite of Christian  
Initiation Program for Children/Teens  
A Journey of Faith***

***For Whom is the RCIA for Children/Teens***

RCIA for children/teens is intended for children not baptized as infants, who have attained the use of reason and are of catechetical (school) age. They seek Christian initiation either at the direction of their parents or guardians or, with parental permission, on their own initiative. Such children are capable of receiving and nurturing a personal faith and of recognizing an obligation in conscience.

Once readiness is reached, the children/teen will receive the Sacraments of Baptism and/or First Eucharist.

- \* **Baptism** for 7-12 year olds from September to Easter.
- \* **Baptism and First Eucharist** for 13-17 year olds from September to Easter.

### ***If your child is Baptized in Another Faith...***

Those third through fifth grade students who are already baptized but need to receive First Penance and First Eucharist will attend their age-appropriate class on Sundays as well as the monthly classes for Sacramental Preparation. If they have no exposure to Catholic beliefs and practices, however, they should be enrolled the RCIA Program for Children/Teens.

### ***What the Process is...***

The process involves prayer, study, activities, and listening to the Word of God through Bible Stories.

- \* The process is Jesus-centered. It focuses on Jesus Christ, the Master Teacher, and His teachings.
- \* It provides opportunities for children to hear the Word of God and to begin to apply the Word to their daily relationships.
- \* The program allows children to discover the love of Jesus and to respond to His love by their actions and deeds.



### ***What Amount of Time does this Process Require?***

The RCIA is not a class or program. It is a process of conversion. It prepares one to embark on a journey of faith that leads to a lifelong commitment as a Catholic. All Catholics are called to daily conversion and renewal to be on this faith journey.

RCIA stresses the need for a living experience of the Church as a “people of God” and not just “knowledge” about the Church. A person’s desire to turn towards God (conversion) and become connected to a community does not happen instantly, but takes time as the Holy Spirit nurtures that deepening desire within.

The usual length of preparation is approximately seven months, and the initiation of new members is celebrated at the Easter Vigil.



*"Our profession of faith begins with God, for God is the First and the Last, the beginning and the end of everything. The Credo begins with God the Father, for the Father is the first divine person of the Most Holy Trinity; our Creed begins with the creation of heaven and earth, for creation is the beginning and the foundation of all God's works."-Catechism of the Catholic Church # 198-*

### ***When and Where are the Classes Held?***

The RCIA for children/teen classes are held every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Mother Cabrini Center (MCC). Students must attend Mass every Sunday at St. Paul R.C. Church (RCIA Class Mass is at 9:00 a.m.)

### ***What are the Requirements?***

Children are to:

1. Attend weekly Sunday Mass at St. Paul R.C. Church. Pews in the front of the Church will be reserved for RCIA students.
2. Attend their scheduled Tuesday evening classes. Due to the nature of our curriculum and the time of preparation, no more than 3 absences will be allowed.
3. Provide copies of Birth Certificate, \*Baptismal Certificate, \*First Communion Certificate (if this applies to you).
4. Attend all the Rites and Scrutinies.
5. If your child is going to receive the Sacrament of Baptism he/she will need two (2) Godparents. **Baptismal Godparents Certificates are due Tuesday, March 19, 2023**

**Parents are required to attend Orientation Night Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.**

## ***About the Sacraments of Initiation***

### **The Sacrament of Baptism:**

Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit (*vitae spiritualis ianua*), and the door which gives access to the other Sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as children of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: "Baptism is the Sacrament of regeneration through water in the word." ***-Catechism of the Catholic Church #1213-***

### **The Sacrament of the Eucharist**

The Lord addresses an invitation to us, urging us to receive him in the Sacrament of the Eucharist: "Truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you." ***-Catechism of the Catholic Church #1384-***

### **The Sacrament of Confirmation**

From this fact, Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace: it roots us more deeply in the divine filiation which makes us cry, "Abba! Father!", it unites us more firmly to Christ; it increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us; it renders our bond with the Church more perfect; it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross: Recall then that you have received the spiritual seal, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, the spirit of holy fear in God's presence. Guard what you have received. God the Father has marked you with his sign; Christ the Lord has confirmed you and has placed his pledge, the Spirit, in your hearts. ***-Catechism of the Catholic Church #1303-***

## ***Sponsor/Godparent Guidelines***

Follow these guidelines when choosing your Baptism or Confirmation Sponsor/Godparents.

Sponsor/Godparents requirements:

- They must be a Baptized Roman Catholic.
- Have done their First Communion and Confirmation.
- If the Godparents are married to each other, they must be married in the Catholic Church.
- If they are married to other people, they must be married in the Catholic Church to their spouse. Should the Godparents be single they must not be living outside of marriage with anyone, and they must be a practicing Catholic.
- Over the age of 18 years old.
- If you are receiving both Baptism and Confirmation, either your Baptism Godfather or Godmother may be your Confirmation Sponsor. You may choose one but not both.
- Sponsor/Godparents must provide a Sponsor/Godparents Certificate from their parish Priest, stating his/her good standing to be a Sponsor or Godparent. They can obtain this by going to the Parish they attend regularly and request it from them.
- If you are receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, you are required to choose a Patron Saint Name or remain with your Baptismal Name.



**SCHEDULE OF RITES AND SCRUTINIES**

**9:00am Mass in St. Paul R.C. Church**

1. Sunday, October 23, 2022  
Rite of Entry
2. Sunday, February 26, 2023  
Rite of Sending  
Rite of Election@ Cathedral of St. John the Baptist  
(time to be determined later in the program)
3. Sunday, March 5, 2023  
Rite of Call to Continuing Conversion
4. Sunday, March 12, 2023  
First Scrutiny
5. Sunday, March 19, 2023  
Second Scrutiny
6. Sunday, March 26, 2023  
Third Scrutiny

**Saturday, April 8, 2023**

Easter Vigil and Reception of the Sacraments

1. Rehearsal at 9:00am
2. Easter Vigil Mass at 8:00pm (must arrive at St. Paul Church by 7:00pm)





# RCIA Prayer

Lord, we pray for those in the RCIA  
process who journey to you.

Strengthen their faith.

Open their hearts to the fullness of your  
love.

Deepen their understanding.

Set their hearts on fire for the  
kingdom of God.

We ask this through Jesus, who is the  
Way, the Truth, and the Life for all.

Amen.

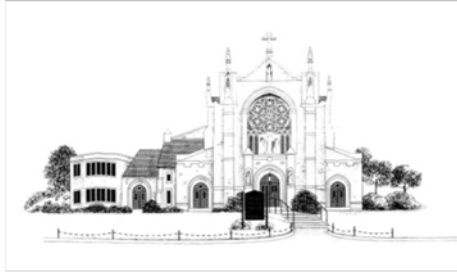
**ST. PAUL R.C. CHURCH**  
**2021-2022 IMPORTANT DATES**  
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- \* First Day of Class  
Tuesday, October 4th, 2022
- \* Feast of St. Francis and Outdoor Blessing of the Animals  
Saturday, October 8th, 2022 at 4:00pm
- \* All Saints Day Mass  
Sunday, October 30th, 2022 Children's Saint Parade @ 11:00am Mass
- \* All Souls Day Masses  
Tuesday, November 1st, 2022 at 8:00am
- \* Mass of Nations  
Sunday, November 20th, 2022 at 11:00am; No 1:00pm Spanish Mass
- \* Thanksgiving Day Mass  
Thursday, November 24th, 2022 at 9:00am in the Church
- \* Feast of the Immaculate Conception  
Wednesday, December 7th, 2022, 8:00am (English) and 7:00pm (Spanish)  
and 5:00pm (English)
- \* Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass  
Sunday, December 11th, 2022, all Masses
- \* Christmas Concert  
Sunday, December 11th, 2022 at 5:30pm in the Church
- \* Advent Penance Service  
Monday, December 12th, 2022 at 7:00pm
- \* Nine Day Christmas Novena/Simbang Gabi  
December 14th, 2022 to December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 at 7:00pm in Church
- \* Christmas Eve Masses  
Saturday, December 24th, 2022 at 5:30pm (English), 7:30pm (Spanish) and  
10:30pm (English)
- \* Christmas Day Masses  
Sunday, December 25th, 2022 All Masses
- \* Feast of the Holy Family Masses  
December 25<sup>th</sup> and December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021, all Masses
- \* Parish New Year's Eve Events  
Sunday, January 1st, 2023 All Masses; New Year's Eve party at 7:30pm
- \* Solemnity of Mary Mother of God Masses  
Sunday, January 1st, 2023 All Masses
- \* The Epiphany of the Lord/Three Kings  
January 8th, 2023 all Masses
- \* The Baptism of the Lord  
January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, All Masses

- \* Conversion of St. Paul Feast Day Masses  
Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 8:00am, and  
January 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023, All Masses
- \* The Presentation of the Lord  
Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 at 8:00am and 7:00pm Masses
- \* Feast of St. Blaise/Blessing of the Throats and The Presentation of the Lord  
February 4<sup>th</sup> and February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, all Masses
- \* Ash Wednesday Services and Masses  
February 22, 2023 at 8:00am, 12:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm (English) and  
7:00pm (Spanish)
- \* Palm Sunday  
April 1<sup>st</sup> and April 10<sup>2nd</sup>, 2023, all Masses
- \* Lenten Penance Service  
Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 7:00pm
- \* Holy Thursday Mass  
April 6, 2023 at 7:30pm (Trilingual); 8:30pm to 12:30am Exposition of the  
Blessed Sacrament in Church
- \* Good Friday Services  
April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 11:00am Outdoor Living Stations of the Cross, Liturgies:  
3:00pm (English), 5:30pm (Spanish) and 7:30pm Tenebrae (Trilingual)
- \* Easter Vigil  
Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 1:00 pm Blessing of the Food and 8:00pm Vigil  
Mass
- \* Easter Sunday  
April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022, all Masses
- \* First Communion Day/May Crowning  
Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 10:00am. Mass (reception after Mass)
- \* Mother's Day Masses  
May 13<sup>th</sup> and May 14<sup>th</sup>, all Masses
- \* The Ascension of the Lord  
Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 8:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- \* Pentecost  
May 27<sup>th</sup> and May 28, 2023, all Masses
- \* Confirmation Day  
Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 11:00am Mass (reception after Mass)
- \* Feast of Corpus Christi  
June 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, all Masses
- \* Father's Day Masses  
June 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 all Masses

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## **ST. PAUL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**



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