

ST. PAUL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
231 Second Street, Clifton, NJ 07011

*Rite of Christian Initiation of
Adults (R.C.I.A.)*



"The sharing in the divine nature given to men through the grace of Christ bears a certain likeness to the origin, development, and nourishing of natural life. The faithful are born anew by Baptism, strengthened by the sacrament of Confirmation, and receive in the Eucharist the food of eternal life. By means of these sacraments of Christian initiation, they thus receive in increasing measure the treasures of the divine life and advance toward the perfection of charity." —Catechism of the Catholic Church—



***Welcome to St. Paul's R.C.I.A. Program
A Journey of Faith***

How Does One Become Catholic?

Most Catholics are born into Catholic families and gradually come to share in the full Sacramental life of the Church. Others previously baptized in other Christian Churches, have become Catholic by making a solemn profession of faith, being confirmed, and sharing in Eucharist with the Catholic Community. Some never baptized, have been initiated through the process that leads to Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Church's annual celebration of the Easter Vigil.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the Catholic Church's way of initiating new members. It warmly welcomes new members and tries to provide an appropriate spiritual formation for each inquirer.



Who May Participate?

Those never baptized as Christians.

Those baptized in another Christian faith tradition and now interested in the Catholic tradition.

Those baptized in the Catholic tradition whose total formation has never been completed.

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.



What Takes Place in The RCIA?

The RCIA involves four stages, each marked by a special ritual celebrating the person's deepening desire to say "yes" to living the Catholic Faith.

The Inquiry Period:

A time for searching for God, for meaning in life, or for asking initial questions and seeking answers about the basics of the Catholic Faith.

The Catechumenate Period:

A time of being formed by the Gospel and of learning more in depth about the Catholic tradition.

Purification & Enlightenment Period:

A time during the Season of Lent involving prayer and deeper reflection as one prepares to receive God's new life at the Easter celebration.

Mystagogy Period:

A time after the Easter celebration to deepen one's understanding of what it means to "become" Eucharist and live Christ's mission in our world.

Why Are There Rituals?

The RCIA is the Catholic Community initiating new members into itself. This takes place in community, not a private celebration. The rituals express outwardly the community's support and joy for those walking the journey of RCIA.

When and Where are the Classes Held?

The RCIA classes are held every Sunday starting with the 9:00am Mass in St. Paul Roman Catholic Church immediately followed by class from 10:00am –11:30am in the Parish (Church) Hall.

What are the Requirements?

You are to:

1. Attend weekly Sunday Mass at St. Paul Roman Catholic Church. Pews in the right front of the Church should be used by RCIA Candidates.
2. Attend your scheduled weekly Sunday class. Due to the nature of our curriculum and the time of preparation, no more than 3 absences will be allowed.
3. Provide copies of (i) your Baptismal Certificate (if this applies to you); and (ii) your First Communion Certificate (if this applies to you).
4. You are to attend all the Rites and Scrutinies.
5. If you are going to receive the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation you will need: Two (2) Godparents for Baptism and one (1) Sponsor for Confirmation. **Baptismal Godparents & Confirmation Sponsor Certificates are due no later than Sunday March 3, 2024.**
6. You are to attend a Diocesan Spiritual Retreat before the reception of the Sacraments, usually in March but date remains to be determined and will be provided in accordance with availability.

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 22, 2023
Rite of Entry
2. Sunday, February 18, 2024
Rite of Sending
Rite of Election at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist
3:00 PM
3. Sunday, February 25, 2024
Rite of Call to Continuing Conversion
4. Sunday, March 3, 2024
First Scrutiny
5. Sunday, March 10, 2024
Second Scrutiny
6. Sunday, March 17, 2024
Third Scrutiny

Saturday, March 30, 2024

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
2023-2024 IMPORTANT DATES

First Day of Class

Sunday, September 24, 2023

Feast of St. Francis and Outdoor Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 1, 2023, 4pm at church

All Saints Day Mass (celebrated by lower-level kids)

Sunday, October 29th, 2023 Children's Saint Parade @ 11:00am Mass

All Saints Day

Wednesday, November 1, 2023, Mass Service at 8am, 5pm, and 7pm

All Souls Day

Thursday, November 2, 2023, Mass Service at 8am, 5pm and 7pm

Thanksgiving Day Mass

Thursday, November 23rd, 2023, Mass Service at 8am and 7pm

Mass of Nations

Sunday, November 26th, 2023at 11:00am

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Friday, December 8th, 2023; Mass Service at 8am, 5pm, 7pm

Advent Penance Service

Monday, December 11, 2023 at 7pm at church

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass

Tuesday, December 12, 2023, Mass Service at 8am, 7pm (mañanitas at 5am)

Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 17, 2023 at 5:30 pm at church

Nine Day Christmas Novena/Simbang Gabi

Beginning Friday, December 15, 2023, Mass Service at 7:00 pm

Christmas Eve Masses

Sunday, December 24, 2023, Mass Service 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm Spanish

Christmas Day Masses

Monday, December 25, 2023, Mass Service 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm Spanish

Feast of the Holy Family Masses

Sunday, December 31, 2023 All Masses

New Year's Eve Party, Parish Hall (to be determined)

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

Monday, January 1, 2024 All Masses

The Epiphany of the Lord/Three Kings

Sunday, January 7, 2024 All Masses

The Baptism of the Lord

Monday, January 8, 2024, 8 AM Mass

Conversion of St. Paul Feast Day Masses

Thursday, January 25, 2024, 8 AM, 7 PM Mass

The Presentation of the Lord

Friday, February 2, 2024, 8AM Mass

Feast of St. Blaise/Blessing of the Throats
Saturday, February 3, 2024 and Sunday, February 4, 2024 All Masses

Ash Wednesday Services and Masses
Wednesday, February 14, 2024, 8 AM Mass, 12:00 pm Liturgy, 3:00 pm
Liturgy, 5:00 pm Mass, 7:00 pm Mass

Palm Sunday
Saturday, March 23, 2024, 5PM Mass; Sunday, March 24, 2024 All Masses

Lenten Penance Service
Tuesday, March 26, 2024, 7pm at church

Holy Thursday Mass
Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 7:30pm (Trilingual); 8:30pm to 12:30am Expo-
sition of the Blessed Sacrament in Church

Good Friday Services
Friday, March 29, 2024 at 11:00am Outdoor Living Stations of the Cross,
Liturgies: 3:00pm (English), 5:30pm (Spanish) and 7:30pm Tenebrae
(Trilingual)

Easter Vigil
Saturday, March 30, 2024; 1:00 pm Blessing of the Food and 8:00pm Vigil
Mass

Easter Sunday
Sunday, March 31, 2024, all Masses

First Communion Day/May Crowning
Saturday, May 4, 2024 at 10:00 am (reception after Mass)

Mother's Day Masses
Saturday, May 11, 2024, 8 am and 5 pm Mass and Sunday, All Masses

The Ascension of the Lord
Sunday, May 12, 2024, All Masses

Pentecost
Saturday, May 18, 2024, 5pm Mass and Sunday, May 19, 2024 All Masses

Confirmation Day
Sunday, May 19, 2024, 11AM Mass, Reception after Mass

Feast of Corpus Christi
Saturday, June 1, 2024, 5 AM Mass, and Sunday, June 2, 2024, All Masses

Father's Day Masses
Saturday, June 15, 2024, 5AM Mass and Sunday, June 16, 2024, All Masses

ST. PAUL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



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